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AFFTC-TR-61-15 August 1961

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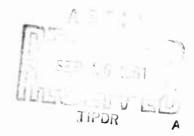


# T-38A CATEGORY II STABILITY AND CONTROL TESTS

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### ABSTRACT

This report presents the results of the Air Force Flight Test Center Category II stability and control tests of the T-38A aircraft equipped with YJ85-GE-5 afterburning engines. The AFFTC test program was conducted under the integrated contractor/Air Force Category System and consisted of 17 flights totaling 13.8 hours of flying time. Approximately 9.5 hours of contractor obtained data was also utilized in the preparation of this report. T-38A and YT-38 aircraft equipped with YJ85-GE-5 and YJ85-GE-1 engines, respectively, were utilized during the test program.

The T-38 airplane, Air Force System 420L, is a two place tandem supersonic trainer manufactured by the Norair Division of the Northrop Corporation. The mission of the airplane is to accomplish all phases of basic pilot training, including; day and night transition, formation, navigation, instrument and acrobatic flying. The aircraft has a full powered irreversible flight control system which includes a conventional artificial feel system.

The T-38 aircraft is an excellent trainer for pilot transition into high performance jet aircraft including present Century Series fighter aircraft. Its simplicity is conducive to transition; its performance and handling characteristics allow Century Series simulation and development of correct pilot techniques. Visibility from the front seat and the rear seat is excellent during all phases of flight. The rear seat (instructor's position) affords complete control over most of the normal and emergency procedures.

The stability and control characteristics of the aircraft are satisfactory throughout the flight envelope. Most of the undestrable features noted during

the Category I tests have been improved or corrected. The longitudinal control response is sensitive at high speeds and/or Mach numbers and slow at airspeeds below 220 knots IAS, but it is the best balance available from the simple non-q-biased flight control system. The aircraft is safe to fly with or without stability augmentation (pitch and yaw dampers) although the damping of longitudinal disturbances with the pitch damper inoperative is low and

military specification requirements are not met in almost all flight conditions at altitudes below 30,000 feet. The damper systems provide adequate damping at all airspeeds and slightly excessive damping longitudinally at low airspeeds. All inflight directional, lateral-directional, and lateral characteristics are satisfactory. There is a wide pre-stall buffet boundary which starts at airspeeds as high as 190 knots IAS in the cruise configuration and 170 knots in the power approach configuration, and continues to the minimum airspeed of about 115 knots. The buffet is unsatisfactory as a stall warning; however, lateral roll-off near the stall and lateral oscillations which occur just prior to stall provide a satisfactory stall warning.

The low nose wheel steering response near neutral requires excessive rudder pedal movements while taxiing and occasionally causes a low frequency divergence in directional oscillations on take-off due to over-control. This divergence can be stopped by releasing the nose wheel steering. There are a number of discrepancies in the cockpit layout and controls which should be corrected. None of these are unacceptable if adequately discussed in the Pilot's Handbook.

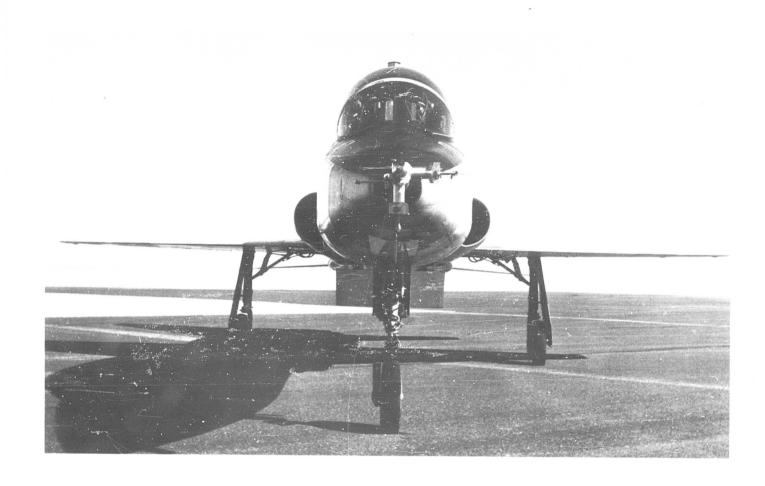
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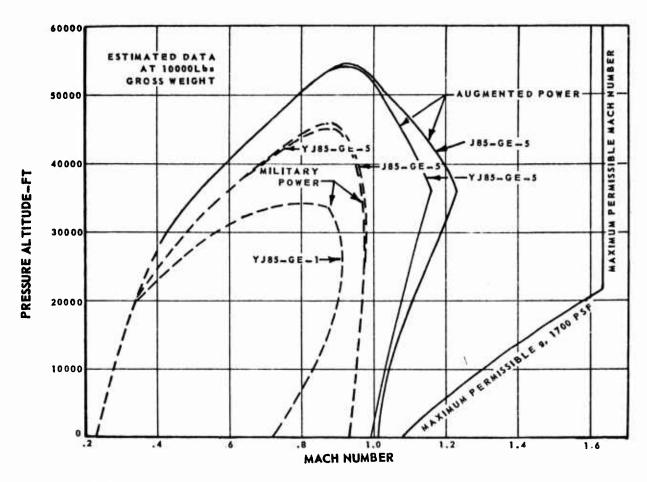
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This report presents the results of the Air Force Flight Test Center T-38A Category II stability and control tests. The tests were performed on contractor maintained aircraft which were being used concurrently by the contractor in Category I tests. The AFFTC Category II tests were conducted to obtain quantitative data on the stability and control and handling characteristics of the T-38 airplane in the flight envelope not tested during the Category I program, evaluate changes resulting from recommendations made during the Category I tests, and more thoroughly investigate some of the areas previously tested. The test data was obtained using YT-38 and T-38A aircraft equipped with YJ85-GE-1 engines and YJ85-GE-5 afterburning engines, respectively. The Air Force Flight Test Center program was flown at Edwards AFB, California, from 22 February to 16 December 1960 and consisted of 17 flights totaling 13.8 hours. Approximately 9.5 hours of contractor obtained data was also utilized in the preparation of this report. All contractor flights were monitored by the AFFTC surveillance Team. In addition to the Category II test flights, AFFTC pilots participated in the contractor's Category I program which was being conducted concurrently. This made it possible to evaluate various modifications as they were incorporated in the aircraft. Pilot participation was such that contractor and Air Force pilots participated in both the AFFTC and Norair test programs.

The T-38 airplane, Air Force Weapon System 420L, is a two place tandem trainer manufactured by the Norair Division of the Northrop Corporation. The mission of the airplane is to accomplish all phases of basic pilot training, including; day and night transition, formation, navigation, instrument and acrobatic flying. The flight envelope of the airplane with the YJ85-GE-1, YJ85-GE-5 afterburning engines, and the J85-GE-5 afterburning engines is presented in Figure A. It was not practical to obtain flight data above Mach 1.1 in level stabilized flight with the prototype -5 engine because acceleration above 1.1 Mach number is slow and consumes considerable fuel. The two

FIGURE A
T-38A ALTITUDE-MACH NUMBER
FLIGHT ENVELOPE



test aircraft had an average basic weight of 8, 100 pounds with an internal fuel capacity of 582 gallons or 3, 780 pounds (gross weight = 12,010 pounds). The present anticipated weight of a fully loaded (2 pilots and 3,800 pounds of fuel) production trainer is 11,550 pounds. With two pilots and a full load of fuel, the center of gravity position is about 20 percent MAC (the design center of gravity limits are 14 and 24 percent MAC, respectively). Both test aircraft had instrumentation installed in the rear cockpit. The external configuration of the test aircraft is the same as that

presently planned for the production trainer except that the test aircraft was equipped with a test nose boom, a free air temperature bulb, and an externally mounted fuselage deflection camera and reference posts. All indicated airspeeds listed in this report are for the test nose boom.

The flight control system incorporated in the production aircraft has the same lateral and directional systems as evaluated during the AFFTC Category I tests; however, there were several modifications to the longitudinal control system. The

major differences between the prototype and the production longitudinal flight control system include:

- 1. Elimination of the stick damper
- 2. A revised automatic trim schedule during flap actuation
- 3. A new actuator servo valve arm and revised surface rates designed to give pushover response similar to pull-up response
- 4. A new feel spring
- 5. Revised electronic gain of the pitch and yaw dampers

Norair personnel assisted the Air Force Flight Test Center in the reduction of the stability and control test data. This data was immediately available to the contractor. Copies of the final plots contained in Appendix I of this report were sent to the T-38 Project Office, the Systems Design Principles Branch, WWDXH, and to the Norair Division of the Northrop Corporation on 12 April 1961.

The following configurations as listed in Military Specification MIL-F-8785(ASG), "Flying Qualities of Piloted Aircraft", are presented on the plots and referred to in the discussion:

Configuration	Symbol	Gear	Flaps	Power
Cruise	CR	Up	Up	Level fligh
Power approach	PA	Down	Down 45°	Level fligh
Take-off	TO	Down	Down 20*	Take-off
Landing	L	Down	Down 45°	Idle

### TEST RESULTS

#### EXTERNAL INSPECTION

The preflight external inspection is easy to accomplish. The number of inspection items is small and their layout is such that no screw drivers or other tools are required.

#### COCKPIT EVALUATION

Individual ladders of excellent design provide easy entrance to each cockpit. Pull-out steps in the side of the fuselage

provide a second means of entrance. Entrance via the pull-out steps is difficult but is adequate as a secondary system.

The cockpits are large and comfortable and are basically satisfactory; however, there are many items that should or could be improved. These items are classified as unsatisfactory (safety of flight involved), or needing improvement to provide a better product. With adequate pre-flight briefing and inflight caution, none of the items are unacceptable.

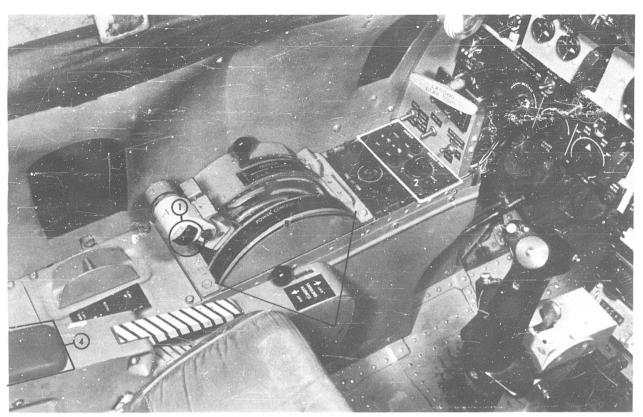
#### Unsatisfactory Items 1:

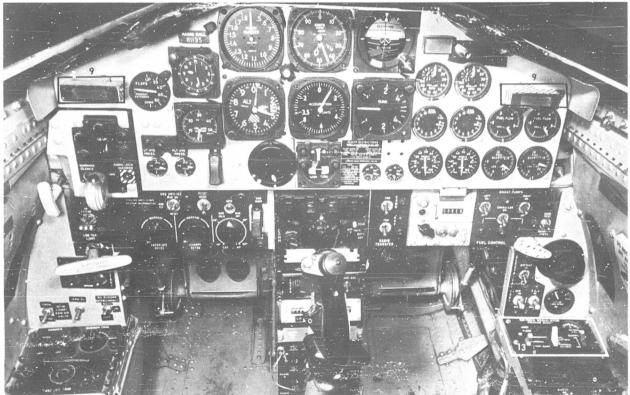
- \*1. The friction detents which provide an idle stop for each throttle do not provide a positive stop and do not prevent an unintentional cut-off of all fuel to an engine when the throttle setting is reduced to idle. The possibility of an inadvertent stop cock and flame-out of one or both engines is a safety of flight hazard. A positive stop is required at the idle throttle position.  $(A \ 1)^2$
- \*\*2. The dimmed intensities of the landing gear position green lights, the J-4 compass warning light, and the fuel boost pump and crossfeed lights are all much too bright for night operations. The illumination in the cockpit reduces the visibility of objects and lights outside of the aircraft to a dangerous degree. The dimmed intensities of these lights should be reduced. (A 2)
- \*3. The fuel quantity gages are inaccurate near zero. Engines have flamed out in the air and on the ground with as much as 90 pounds of remaining fuel indicated on the gage for that engine. The fuel quantity indicating systems should be calibrated or modified to indicate the actual fuel remaining that is available to each engine. (A 3)
- \*\*4. During night flights, the reflections in the blast screen between the two cockpits are disconcerting to the pilot in the rear cockpit and can cause vertigo under some conditions. The wing and tail flasher lights of the aircraft are constantly reflected. Lights of other aircraft in formation occasionally appear as aircraft approaching from ahead. A sunset horizon or cloud formation or the lights of a city to the rear can cause serious discrientation and vertigo. This situation should be corrected by tilting or other modification of the blast shield. (A 4, C 2)
  - 1+ Indicated that corrective action has been initiated or approved
  - \*\* Indicates that the item is under condideration by the T-38 Project Office
  - <sup>2</sup> Numbers indicated as (A1), etc., represent the corresponding recommendation numbers as tabulated in the Recommendation section of this report

- \*5. The present emergency landing gear extension system actuation requires a heavy pull force, held in an awkward position, for an extended period of time. The force required pattern during actuation is such that the maximum force required is just prior to full actuation. It is impossible to be sure of full actuation unless additional force is exerted against a positive stop at the end of the cable travel. The high force required is undesirable; the extended period of occupation of the left hand is unsatisfactory because it precludes throttle movement, flap actuation, airstart ignition actuation, etc., during the period. A single pull and release actuation is required. (A 5)
- 6. There is no standby compass in the rear cockpit. This precludes periodic comparison of J-4 compass readings to those of another system and provides no back-up compass for the instructor in the event of J-4 compass or electrical power failure. A standby compass should be installed in the rear cockpit. (A 6)
- \*7. The sidetone feedback of the interphone system is too low. The pilot transmitting is unable to hear his voice. This is a source of continuous annoyance and also requires a check on the receipt of critical instructions. The feedback volume should be adjusted to equal the output volume. (A 7)

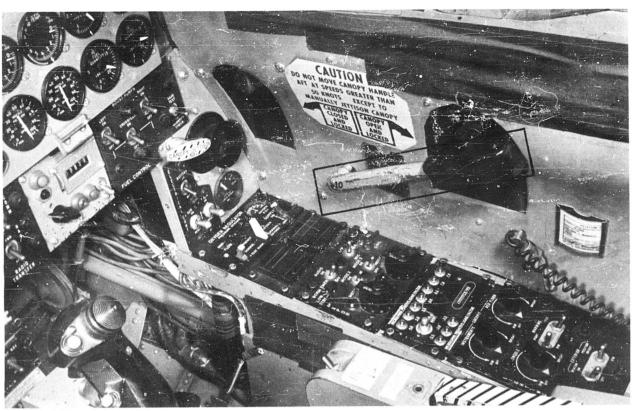
#### Items Needing Improvement:

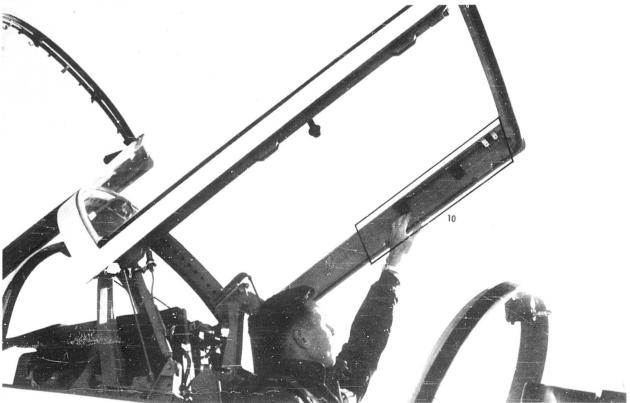
- \*1. The speed brake switch is too small and its positions too indefinite for positive feel and speed brake control. A larger switch with positive detents (in the front cockpit) should be installed. (B 1)
- \*2. The stability augmentation switches (front cockpit only) are located too far forward on the left console. The switches are beyond the reach of the pilot with the shoulder harness locked. The switches should be moved to aft of the throttle quadrant. (B 2)





COCKPIT ARRANGEMENT, T-38A S/N 58-1195, SHOWING NON-STANDARD COCKPIT WITH TEST INSTRUMENTATION AND EQUIPMENT. NUMBERS IN BOXES REFER TO CORRESPONDING ITEM LISTED UNDER "ITEMS NEEDING IMPROVEMENT."





- \*3. There is no indication in the rear cockpit of stability augmentation status. The instructor in the rear must ask the student in the front what the status is. It is necessary that the instructor know the current status, especially prior to certain types of demonstrations or maneuvers. An indicator system should be installed in the rear cockpit. (F 3)
- \*\*4. The pilot's seat and armrest arrangement provides no arm support except during ejection. During formation flights, while constantly holding and moving the engine power levers, the left arm becomes fatigued. A support would reduce arm fatigue and would serve as a reference and anchor point to allow wrist movement for throttle control. This is a design fault that should be corrected in later production of the seat. (B 4)
- \*5. The throttle sweep angles are too large, requiring an excessive angle change for a desired rpm change. This produces positions too far to the rear during power-on landing and instrument approaches, and extending beyond normal arm reach in the afterburner position. The total sweep angle should be reduced to about two thirds of the present angle and centered upon the present center of travel. (B 5)
- 6. The seat elevation rate is too slow but is merely an annoyance factor and can be tolerated. (B 6)
- 7. Longitudinal and lateral control trim rates are both too slow but are acceptable.
- 8. Landing light (\*) and speed brake actuation rates are both too slow but are acceptable. (B 7)
- \*9. The removal of the fire warning and extinguisher handles from the instrument panel eliminated the fuel cut-off features resulting from their actuation. New fuel cut-off provisions should be installed. (B 8)
- 10. At normal taxi speed, or with a head wind blowing, the small amount of leverage available through the canopy

- operating lever is inadequate for easy closure of the canopy. Upon release for opening, the canopy occasionally blows to full open. Pilots generally use their left hand on the canopy itself (using the canopy defrost duct as a handle) to ease opening and closure forces. A handle should be installed on the canopy to provide a good grip. (B 9)
- \*11. The air conditioning system occasionally cycles and becomes extremely noisy following application of engine power. The system automatic controls should be improved. (B 10)
- \*12. A loud airhorn type noise suddenly develops at about Mach 1.3 during high speed dives. It can be reduced or eliminated by slowing the aircraft. (B 11, C 3)
- \*\*13. Visual monitoring of the warning light panel is partially obstructed by the pilot's right knee. Although the location of the master caution light on the main instrument panel alleviates the situation, tilting of the panel against the cockpit wall would eliminate the problem. (B 12)

#### ENGINE START

The T-38 requires the use of external air connected to each engine for ground starts. The installation of cross bleed air from the right engine for starting the left engine was tried as recommended in the Category I report. This arrangement proved unsatisfactory due to blasting of the ramp behind the aircraft with the exhaust from the right engine at the engine speed required for delivering sufficient starting air. The production aircraft will have a "Y" connection on the external air system which will allow starting of both engines from an external source without switching the external connection.

#### GROUND OPERATION

The YJ85-GE-5 and the J85-GE-5 engines are prohibited from continuous operation between 50 and 58 percent rom due to a vibration problem. As a result, the pilot has a choice of taxiing too slowly at 49 percent, too fast at 59 percent, or continual power change from one side to the other of the prohibited band. This engine condition should be corrected. The nose wheel steering response to rudder pedal deflection is adequate at large deflections but too slow and limited for the small deflections about neutral normally used for taxi and take-off. The lack of response near neutral amounts to a dead band through which the pilot must continually operate while taxiing and which occasionally induces over control during take-off when the slow response prompts additional rudder selection. This eventually leads to using too much rudder. The aircraft can be taxied with brakes alone without nose wheel steering. (B 13 and 14)

Pedal forces for the braking action required to hold the aircraft at military power are excessive. (B 15)

Visibility, on the ground and in the air, is excellent from both cockpits except for the reflection problem in the rear cockpit previously mentioned.

#### TAKE-OFF AND CLIMB

Directional control during the takeoff roll can be maintained with differential braking and rudder, or with nose wheel steering. Differential braking or nose wheel steering is required up to 50 knots IAS where the rudder becomes effective. There is an apparent dead band in the nose wheel steering around the neutral position. The response to normal taxi and take-off roll directional corrections is slow. These small directional corrections require large rudder deflections and can result in a divergent directional oscillation due to over-demand. Several modifications to the nose wheel steering system were evaluated but none of them corrected the dead band deficiency. (B 14, C 4)

Stabilizer effectiveness during takeoff is adequate in that the aircraft can be rotated to the take-off attitude well below the stall speed. During augmented power take-off, with a normal take-off trim of zero degrees and a forward center of gravity of 15.7 percent MAC, the nose wheel can be raised at 120 knots IAS with full aft stick. The stick force at this forward cg is quite heavy (40 pounds) and the aircraft response to longitudinal stick movement is slow. Due to the high stick forces and the slow aircraft response, there is a tendency to overshoot the lift-off attitude and raise the nose too high so that the stick must be subsequently brought forward to its lift-off position. At the normal service cg position of 20 percent MAC the stick forces for lift-off are lighter and the aircraft response is hetter

The aircraft tends to climb rapidly during the first few seconds after takeoff and, due to the slow stabilator response, a definite push-over is required to accomplish a shallow initial climb out. The longitudinal trim change during flap retraction has been improved since the Category I test and the objectionable stick movement has been eliminated with the installation of the series trim system

### LONGITUDINAL STABILITY AND CONTROL

The production longitudinal flight control system, Norair MOD-50, was selected by AFFTC pilots during evaluation tests of several systems during July 1960. The stabilator response rate, although still slow at low speeds, was selected as a compromise between too high sensitivity at high airspeeds and too slow response at low airspeeds. The production longitudinal control system differs from the one tested in the AFFTC Category I tests as outlined in the following table:

		•	
Item	Category I	Category II	Remarks
Servo arm length	1.05 in	1.50 in	Changed linkage dynamics slightly.
Surface rate	25 deg/sec, T.E. up 18 deg/sec, T.E. down	26 deg/sec T.E. up and down	Changed aircraft pitch response characteristics.
Stick-surface gearing			Made stick travel versus surface trave relationship more
			linear around zero position.
Stick force			Feel spring modified to eliminate free play at trim.
Trim authority (gear up)	±6.3 deg	0 to 5 deg T.E. up	There was no need for the forward trim authority.
Stick damper .	Various types	None	No damper required in production system
Flap stabilator auto trim			Revised stabilator versus flap schedule and eliminated auto- matic repositioning of stick.

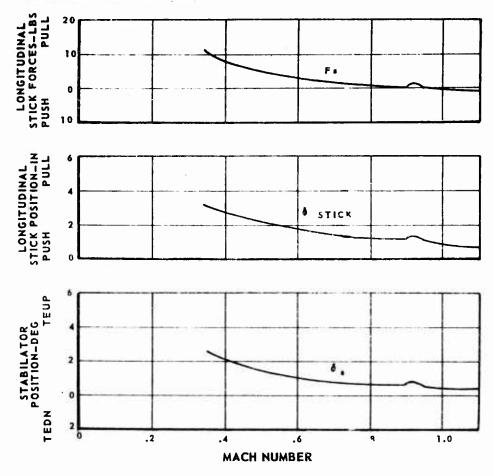
#### STATIC LONGITUDINAL STABILITY

The static longitudinal stability of the aircraft is satisfactory in all configurations throughout the speed and altitude envelope tested.

The modifications to the longitudinal control system eliminated the excessive free play about neutral. The longitudinal break-out force was reduced through improved rigging methods. The main longitudinal stability characteristics noted were very small stick force and position changes during slow acceleration and deceleration through wide speed ranges in the higher speed regime. During a deceleration at 10,000 feet from 1.1 Mach (626 knots IAS) to .7

Mach (390 knots), the total force and stick position changes were only 3 pounds and 0.7 inches, respectively. Further decrease in speed below 390 knots required more noticeable force and deflection inputs. There is a transonic trim change which occurs at about 0.9 Mach number; however, it is so mild that it is hardly perceptible, especially at low altitude. The aircraft is easily trimmed to desired conditions throughout its speed range. The present longitudinal trim system is satisfactory. The trim rate is slow but acceptable. The aircraft can be flown with trim alone. The pilot can trim against himself (increase stick forces) within the force band determined by the runaway trim limiter.

STATIC LONGITUDINAL STABILITY CRUISE CONFIGURATION-10000 FEET 10300 Ibs CROSS WEIGHT 22.1% MAC



The test results show that the stick free and stick fixed neutral points are aft of the rear cg limit of 24 percent MAC between the Mach numbers of .4 and .9 as shown in Fig. 6, Appendix I.

#### MANEUVERING FLIGHT

The maneuvering flight characteristics (Figs. 7 through 15, Appendix I) are satisfactory for all conditions tested. The stick forces are light compared to most Century Series aircraft; however, some of the stick force per g gradients

are in excess of the maximum limits of MIL-F-8785(ASG) as indicated in Fig. 7, Appendix I. The stick force gradient was investigated to the limit load factor at .8 Mach (see Fig. 9, Appendix I) at 10,000 feet as recommended in the Category I report. There is a slight, but acceptable, decrease in the force gradient at high load factors at these and other high "q" conditions. There was no pitch-up tendency during stall buffet other than the normal fall off and regaining of load factor with the stick held aft during heavy stall buffet. The maneuver points were determined during

the Category I tests and were found to be aft of the rear cg limits in all cases.

#### STALL AND BUFFET BOUNDARY

The lg and accelerated stall characteristics of the T-38 are very good. A high rate of sink develops rather than a clean nose down pitch during lg stalls. The buffet boundary preceding the high sink rate at stall is too wide to use as a stall warning.

In the cruise configuration at 1g and 10,000 feet altitude with a gross weight of 10,000 pounds and idle power, initial buffet begins at 190 knots IAS, moderate buffet at 160 knots, heavy buffet and a slow sink rate at 140 knots, and a high sink rate and minimum airspeed occur at 115 knots. A moderate wing roll off occurs at 135 knots and lateral oscillations occur at 125 knots just prior to the development of the high sink rate with

full back stick. The wing roll and lateral oscillations provide a satisfactory stail warning.

In the landing configuration at 8800 pounds gross weight, initial buffet begins at 170 knots IAS, moderate buffet at 140 knots, heavy buffet at 130 knots, and a high sink rate and minimum airspeed occur at 112 knots. A moderate wing roll-off occurs at 125 knots and lateral oscillations occur at 120 knots just prior to the development of the high sink rate with fuil back stick.

Accelerated stall characteristics are similar but occur at higher speeds, dependent upon the load factor present. Recovery from a stall is made by lowering the nose and increasing the airspeed. Stalls and recoveries at 1g and during turning flight did not indicate pitch-up, spin or post stall gyration tendencies. Stall speeds and buffet boundary are presented in Figs. 58 and 59, Appendix I. (C 5)

TABLE I

	Initial Trim Conditions						Parameter	Maximum Control	
Item No.	Altitude ft	Speed V <sub>cal</sub> -kt	Gear	Flaps deg	Power Setting	ConfigurationChange	Held Constant	Forces Experienced lb	
1	10, 160	212	Down	Up	PLF	Flaps down	Altitude	-6.9	
2	25, 350	403	Up	Uр	MRP	Idle power	Altitude	+3.5	
3	25, 240	405	Up	Up	MRP	Extend speed brakes	Point of aim	-9.2	
4	25, 170	331	Up	Uр	PLF	Extend speed brakes	Altitude	-8.6	
5	25, 440	401	Up	$\mathtt{U}_{\mathbf{P}}$	MRP	Augmented power	Altitude	+3.2	
6	45, 170	261	Up	Uр	MRP	Idle power	Altitude	+2.5	
7	44, 910	271	Up	Up	MRP	Extend speed brakes	Point of aim	-3.7	
8	45, 130	249	Up	Up	MRP	Augmented power	Altitude	+2.5	

NOTE: + pull force - push force

#### LONGITUDINAL TRIM CHANGES

Tests were conducted to determine the longitudinal trim change resulting from a change in airplane configuration or power setting. The trim changes are easily controllable and all of the forces are less than the 10 pound maximum specified in MIL-F-8785(ASG). The installation of the series trim system, which automatically positions the stabilator as a function of flap position, corrected the objectionable trim change that existed on the prototype aircraft when the flaps were extended.

Safety switches in the horizontal tail system prevent adverse runaway trim by breaking the drive motor circuit in the direction of increasing stick force. The switches were designed to break the circuit at a force of 8 pounds push or pull; however, a force of 3 pounds pull and 9 pounds push were required to break the circuit on the test aircraft. The stick forces required to overcome the effects of runaway trim actuator are shown in Fig. 75, Appendix I. This type of malfunction can only occur if the safety switches mentioned above become welded closed.

### LONGITUDINAL SHORT PERIOD STABILITY

The dynamic longitudinal stability of the aircraft is satisfactory with the stability augmenter operative or inoperative. The damping with the augmenter inoperative is not in compliance with MIL-F-8785(ASG) specifications at all airspeeds below an altitude of 30,000 feet; however, damping is considered adequate for mission accomplishment. The damping with the pitch damper operative was unsatisfactory on the prototype aircraft at low airspeed because pitch oscillations were overdamped (some damping ratios were greater than 1.0). The pitch damper was modified and, although the damping is still high at some airspeeds, the damping is acceptable. The longitudinal damping is acceptable. The longitudinal

damping characteristics of the T-38 air-craft are non-linear. The damping ratios presented on Figs. 18 and 19, Appendix I, were reduced by a method developed in Reference 6. The damping ratios determined by this method do not show a big increase in damping with the stability augmentation operative. Qualitatively, the pilot feels a marked increase in damping with the augmentation operative.

Pilot inducted oscillations (PIO) are possible in the T-38 aircraft, especially with dampers inoperative at high indicated airspeeds; however, the aircraft can be flown safely without augmentation. Pilot overcontrol can occur at low speeds, especially during landings, due to delayed response of the stabilator and the resulting over-demand of corrective control input. The slow oscillations that result from repeated over-demand of fore and aft control inputs, must be stopped by a deliberate reduction of the control inputs. The high frequency PIO at high airspeeds and the low frequency PIO at low airspeeds demonstrate the compromise necessary to accept a simple control system without a "q" compensator or other "black box" device. There is no failure warning system for an inoperative augmentation. condition. An augmentation status and failure warning system and light are required for the rear cockpit (instructor). Without knowledge of augmentation status, an instructor pilot could allow a student to generate overstress conditions (due to low longitudinal damping with augmentation off and possible pilot induced oscillations) before corrective action could be taken. The PIO tendency and its correction should be discussed in the Flight Manual. (C 1)

#### STATIC DIRECTIONAL STABILITY

The static directional stability characteristics of the T-38 are satisfactory. The aircraft exhibited positive directional stability and positive dihedral effect within the speed range tested. The limited 6 degree rudder travel available in the cruise configuration is adequate for all gear-up directional requirements of the aircraft.

During the static directional tests a roll divergence was encountered in the power approach configuration at low airspeeds (150 knots IAS or less). During sideslips with the gear and flaps down lateral roll oscillations develop with about 20 degrees of rudder (30 degrees available) which gradually diverge and result in an uncontrollable roll in the direction of the applied rudder (see Fig. 33, Appendix I). This characteristic is not considered a problem because it should never be encountered in normal flight, except possibly during maximum crosswind landings where the compensating bank angle accompanied with the large rudder deflections will probably be excessive. A summary of the sideslip characteristics is presented in Fig. 25, Appendix I. (C 6)

It was recommended in the Category I report that the rudder travel be reduced from ±30 to ±20 degrees, if there were no requirements for the larger travel. The contractor reported that in order to reduce the rudder surface travel and still maintain rudder pedal travel within specification requirements, a considerable redesign of the rudder control system would be required. Although there is no flight requirement . for the larger rudder travel (except possibly crosswind landings), the technical benefits of reducing the rudder travel are not adequate to justify the cost of the required redesign.

### LATERAL-DIRECTIONAL SHORT PERIOD STABILITY

The lateral-directional short period stability characteristics (Dutch roll mode)

of the T-38 are satisfactory in all configurations tested, both with and without the yaw damper operative. A slight snaking motion is sometimes encountered at supersonic speeds. A summary of the lateral-directional damping is presented in Fig. 21, Appendix I.

#### ASYMMETRIC POWER

The asymmetric power characteristics of the T-38 aircraft are very good. Tests conducted at an altitude of 10,000 feet revealed that, with one engine at augmented power and other at idle power, the aircraft can be kept in coordinated flight down to 220 knots IAS with rudder trim only, and to stall with less than maximum rudder deflection without banking the aircraft away from the inoperative engine. One engine throttle chops conducted at the maximum speed (1.1 Mach) and 36,000 feet produced very small directional oscillations and revealed no unsafe conditions.

#### ASYMMETRIC FLAP

Due to the possibility of an asymmetric flap condition existing on the T-38 aircraft from the failure of a flap motor and the left and right flap interconnect, an investigation of the handling characteristics in this condition was conducted by the contractor and the AFFTC. The contractor's test results are published in Norair report NOR 60-356, dated November 1960. The following AFFTC tests were conducted with the landing gear down at an altitude of 10,000 feet.

### TESTS CONDUCTED WITH GEAR DOWN AT 10,000 FEET

Item No.	Indicated Airspeed kt		Test Conducted (With Results in Parenthesis)
1	180	LH 45 RH 0	Slowed to minimum control speed (143 knots IAS) checking roll control and rudder required and determining which control was limiting (aileron).
2	180	LH 0 RH 45	Repeated Item 1 (148 knots IAS, aileron).
3	180	LH 45 RH 0	Made final turn maneuvers left and right determining amount of aileron required (32 degrees total left aileron for right turn).
4	160	LH 45 RH 0	Repeated Item 3 (59 degrees total left aileron for left turn, 40 degrees total left aileron for right turn, stick held back under left leg to accomplish left turn).
5	160	LH 20 RH 20	Raise gear and left flap, check- ing transients and control re- quired to hold wings level as left flap comes up (very little control corrections).
6	160	LH 45 RH 45	Repeat Item 5 (28 degrees total right aileron very little rudder).
7	160	LH 45 RH 45	Right engine at idle, left engine in afterburner. Repeat Item 5 (23 degrees total right aileron required).
8	160	LH 45 RH 45	Repeat Item 7 but raise right flap(full [gear up] aileron, 36 degrees, required until airspeed increases to 170 knots IAS. Roll off-is most critical when the flap on the same side as the operative engine stays down.)

Take-offs, landings and go-arounds were performed as follows:

	Left: Flap deg	Flap	Final Turn Speed, KIAS	Final Speed, KIAS	Touchdown Speed, KIAS	Left Engine Power Setting	Right Engine Power Setting	Speed KIAS	Flap Change
9	0	30	200	180	160				
10	20	20				Afterburner	Afterburner	170	Raise left hand flap
11	0	45	180	170	160				
12	20	20				Military	Military	160	Raise left hand flap
13	0	45	170	160	150				
14	20	20				Afterburner	80 percent	170	Raise left hand flap
15	45	4,5	170	160	Go- around	Idle	Afterburner	170	Raise left hand flap
16	0	45	170	160	146				

(1) Items 9, 11, 13, 16 are landings, Items 10, 12, 14 are take-offs, Item 15 is a go-around.

(2) The landing gear was raised first on the take-offs except for Item 15.

With less than 600 pounds of fuel aboard, flying in the pattern and landing with one flap full down and the other full up can be accomplished with indicated airspeeds of 170, 160 and 150 knots in the final turn, final approach, and touchdown, respectively. With greater aircraft gross weight, or if turbulent conditions exist on the final approach, the speeds must be increased. Moderate rudder (3 degrees) and full aileron (pilot's leg raised to obtain full stick deflection) were required during a flare and touchdown at 150 knots IAS in jet wash. The forces required are not excessive; however, the stick position (back and under the pilot's leg) is uncomfortable, both physically and psychologically, especially when the aileron stop is met during control movements in rough air. Airspeeds of 180, 170 and 160 knots for turn, final and touchdown, respectively, are more comfortable and safer. If it is possible to raise the down flap, an asymmetric flap approach should be converted to a no flap approach and landing since a no flap approach and landing at the same speeds is safer and more comfortable. (C 8, 9)

Failure of one flap to come up following take-off does not present a serious problem. Roll-off with 20 degrees of flap on one side is mild and decreases rapidly as the aircraft accelerates. The maximum total aileron required during the three take-off tests was 9 degrees. (C 10)

Using the results of test Items 7 and 8 in the above table, go-around and asymmetric flap conditions were set up with the worst engine-flap combination (flap down on side of operative engine). Moderate aileron (16 degrees) was required to combat roll-off but the rolloff decreased as the airspeed increased (see Fig. 66, Appendix I). There was a marked reduction in roll-off with the small increase in speed from 160 knots IAS (as in test Item 8 above) to 170 knots used in the go-around. This single engine asymmetric flap go-around situation could present a serious problem under extreme conditions of low altitude and low airspeed. (C 11)

#### LATERAL CONTROL

The lateral control characteristics of the T-38 are adequate throughout the entire altitude speed envelope tested. The roll acceleration and roll rate characteristics are excellent (see Fig. 34, Appendix I). The aircraft meets the MIL-F-8785(ASG) roll acceleration requirements of attaining a 90 degree bank angle change from the minimum subsonic combat speed (defined as the best climb speed) to the maximum level flight speed at altitudes tested except above 1.05 Mach at 30,000 feet (there is no roll acceleration requirement above 40,000 feet). The lateral response for formation flight is oversensitive but acceptable.

The aileron-rudder interconnect system (which is explained in detail in Appendix II, page ) is designed to engage at an impact pressure of 500 psf, or approximately 370 knots IAS. The interconnect mechanically connects the rudder to aileron motion such that  $\delta_r/\delta_a = .22$  in the direction to "uncoordinate" rolling maneuvers. This system is necessary to prevent structural failures due to the high loads anticipated during some rolling maneuvers. In the event of an electrical failure or solenoid failure, this system is designed to engage so that flight at high speed will be safe and full lateral inputs can be made without fear of structural failures. Because of this fail safe design feature, flight below 370 knots with the aileronrudder interconnect engaged may be quite common. (Numerous failures of the interconnect solenoid have occurred in the flight test program to date.)

Tests with the interconnect solenoid in the failed position were conducted to investigate the roll characteristics at low speeds and determine if any unsafe conditions existed. The aircraft can be flown safely in all configurations throughout the flight envelope with the interconnect engaged. The roll rate at low airspeeds is lower with the interconnect engaged that with it disengaged. This is due to the adverse yaw caused by the rudder input with the interconnect engaged (see Figs. 55 and 56, Appendix I).

The decrease in roll rate with the interconnect engaged is most noticeable while performing rolls initiated from high load factor turns. Landings were made with the interconnect engaged and no adverse effects were noted.

An analog computer investigation of the roll characteristics in the landing configuration was made by AFFTC. This study revealed no unsafe roll characteristics with or without the interconnect engaged. The results were published in AFFTC-TN-60-13.

The effect of the interconnect at high airspeeds is to reduce the amount of complimentary yaw in rolls and thus reduce the vertical tail loads (see Fig. 35, Appendix I). The contractor's estimated data indicated that this condition would be most critical during rolls from high entry load factors at high airspeeds. A roll coupling program is presently being conducted by the contractor to investigate roll coupling characteristics and the effects of the interconnect. (C 7)

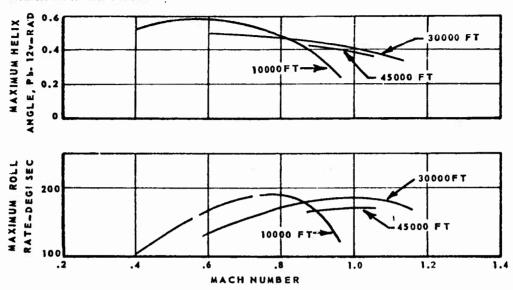
The present aileron control system incorporates a 19.6 pound spring stop to limit the gear-up total aileron travel to 32.5 degrees. The spring stop can be overpowered so that a total of 60 degrees of aileron travel can be obtained. The spin tests on the aircraft have demonstrated that spin recovery is most positive with as much anti-spin aileron (ailerons with the spin) as can be obtained. The contractor is conducting tests to determine if the spring stop can be removed throughout the entire flight envelope.

#### SPIN CHARACTERISTICS

The T-38 aircraft will be prohibited from spins in service use. The spin characteristics were investigated on an aircraft equipped with a spin recovery chute to determine if recovery from unintentional spins is possible.

The spin characteristics of the T-38 will be reported in detail in a separate report. The aircraft will spin from

#### **AILERON ROLL SUMMARY**



both erect and inverted entries, and has both an inverted and erect spin mode. The erect spin may be either oscillatory or smooth and flat. Recovery from well developed oscillatory spins is slow and can not be assured without the installation of an emergency hydraulic system (both engines may flameout resulting in complete loss of hydraulic pressure and thus control power). The aerodynamic controls are not effective in flat spins and recovery from this type spin is not assured.

#### APPROACH AND LANDING

The handling characteristics of the T-38 in the landing pattern are satisfactory and provide adequate Century Series aircraft simulation. Although the base leg, final turn, and final approach are flown in light to moderate stall warning buffet, the wing roll and lateral instability at speeds closer to the stall provide adequate stall warning both in 1g and turning flight. The slow response to longitudinal stick inputs can generate a low frequency oscillation which can be halted through use of smaller control inputs.

The nose can be held off after touch-down up to speeds near 110 knots IAS. Touch and go landings can be accomplished with full flaps left down, landing trim, and the nose wheel held off throughout the ground roll.

### CONTROL BREAK-OUT AND FRICTION FORCES

The control break-out and friction forces are all satisfactory, although the directional break-out force is in excess of MIL-F-8785(ASG) limits. Control system characteristics are presented in Figs. 69 through 73, Appendix I. A slight unsymmetric directional breakout force existed on the test aircraft, but was not objectionable. The friction band was noticeable only during level flight acceleration or deceleration where the small stick force changes are masked in the friction band. The aileron spring detent for the gear-up aileron deflection limit was changed from the production value of 19.6 pounds to an experimental value of 9 pounds. This was done to determine if the production spring stop could be reduced and still provide a positive stop. The lighter spring proved

to be not strong enough to provide a positive stop and was eliminated from consideration for production use. The alleron force characteristics presented in Fig. 71, Appendix I, were obtained with the 9 pound spring installed. Production alleron force characteristics with the 19.6 pound spring are presented in Fig. 88, Appendix I, AFFTC-TR-59-42).

#### AIRSPEED CALIBRATION

The test nose boom system was calibrated by the tower fly-by, pacer, and smoke trail acceleration methods (see Fig. 74, Appendix I). The production airspeed system has been modified as recommended in the Category I report, AFFTC-TR-59-42, and will include a short nose boom. Development testing of the production airspeed system is presently being conducted by the contractor. The final production airspeed system will be calibrated on the Category II performance test aircraft.

### CONCLUSIONS

The T-38 aircraft is an excellent trainer for pilot transition into high performance jet aircraft including present Century Series fighter aircraft. Its simplicity is conducive to transition; its performance and handling characteristics allow Century Series simulation and development of correct pilot techniques. Visibility from the front seat and the rear seat is excellent during all phases of flight. The rear seat (instructor's position) affords complete control over most of the normal and emergency procedures.

The stability and control characteristics of the aircraft are satisfactory throughout the flight envelope. Most of the undesirable features noted during the Category I tests have been improved or corrected. The longitudinal control

response is sensitive at high speeds and/ or Mach numbers and slow at airspeeds below 220 knots IAS, but it is the best balance available from the simple nonq-biased flight control system. The aircraft is safe to fly with or without stability augmentation (pitch and yaw dampers), although the damping of longitudinal disturbances with the pitch damper inoperative is low and military specification requirements are not met in almost all flight conditions. The damper systems provide adequate damping at all airspeeds and slightly excessive damping longitudinally at low airspeeds. All in-flight directional lateral-directional, and lateral characteristics are satisfactory. The aircraft has excellent roll acceleration and roll rate characteristics. There is a wide pre-stall buffet boundary which starts at airspeeds as high as 190 knots IAS in the cruise configuration and 170 knots in the power approach configuration, and continues to the minimum airspeed of about 115 knots. The buffet is unsatisfactory as a stall warning; however, lateral roll-off near the stall and lateral oscillations which occur just prior to stall provide a satisfactory stall warning.

An asymmetric flap condition can exist in the T-38 aircraft from the failure of a flap motor and the left and right flap interconnect. The aircraft

can be landed with one flap full down and the other flap up. The safe landing pattern airspeeds under this condition are almost the same as those airspeeds for a flaps up landing. A flaps up pattern is safer and easier to fly and should be selected if the asymmetric flap condition can be converted to a flaps up condition. An asymmetric flap condition following a take-off with a take-off flap setting of 20 degrees does not present a problem. The wings can be held level with a moderate amount of aileron at airspeeds as low as 160 knots IAS. An asymmetric condition during a go-around does not present a serious control problem unless it is combined with a single engine condition with the operative engine on the same side as the down flap (even under these conditions full aileron is not required to maintain a wings level condition at airspeeds above 170 knots).

The low nose wheel steering response near neutral requires excessive rudder pedal movements while taxiing and occasionally causes a low frequency divergence in directional oscillations on take-off due to overcontrol. This divergence can be stopped by releasing the nose wheel steering. There are a number of discrepancies in the cockpit layout and controls which should be corrected. None of these are unacceptable if adequately discussed in the Pilot's Handbook.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- A. The following recommendations are for correction of safety of flight items and should be accomplished before the aircraft goes into operational use<sup>3</sup>:
  - \*1. Provide a positive throttle stop at idle to prevent inadvertent fuel cut-off (page 4
    - \*\*2. Reduce the intensity of the landgear position lights, the J-4 compass light and the fuel boost pump and crossfeed lights at the dimmed setting for night operation (page 4
      - \*3. Adjust the fuel remaining gages to show fuel actually available for engine use. The engines should not flame-out until a reading of zero is seen (page 4)
        - \*\*4. Reduce the reflection problem in the rear cockpit caused by the transparent blast shield between the cockpits (page 4
          - \*5. Change the emergency landing gear extension mechanism to provide a decrease in forces near the end of the cable travel and a single pull for actuation (page 4
            - 6. Include a standby magnetic compass in the rear cockpit (page 4
              - \*7. Equalize the interphone volume of feedback to the speaker and reception to the listener (page 4
                - 3 \* Indicates that corrective action has been initiated or approved.
                - \*\* Indicates that the Item is under consideration by T-38 Project Office.

- B. The following recommendations are for correction of undesirable deficiencies and/or improvement of the aircraft:
  - \*1. Increase the size and improve the detent action of the speed brake control switch in the front cockpit (page 4
  - \*2. Relocate the stability augmentation switches to behind the throttle quadrant (page 4
  - \*3. Provide an indication in the rear cockpit of damper system status (page 7
  - \*\*4. Provide an armrest on the left side of the cockpit (page 7
    - \*5. Reduce the throttle sweep angle by at least one third, using the middle range of the present sweep (page 7
    - 6. Increase the seat response to switch actuation (page 7
    - 7. Increase the extension and retraction rates of the landing light(\*) and the speed brake (page 7
    - \*8. Provide for an emergency engine fuel cut-off system that is separate from throttle action (page 7

- 9. Add a canopy handle to the left side of the canopy to provide a hand grip and reduce wear and tear on the defrost ducts (page 7
- \*10. Improve the air conditioning control system to prevent loud cycling and pressure fluctuation (page 7
- \*11. Find and correct the cause for the loud "airhorn" type noise which develops during high speed dives (page 7
- \*\*12. Tilt the warning light panel against the side of the cockpit to provide better visibility and less obstruction by the pilot's knee (page 7
- \*\*13. Permit engine operation in the 50 to 58 percent rpm range for taxiing (page 8
- \*\*14. Increase the nose wheel steering response to small rudder deflections about neutral (page 8
- \*\*15. Reduce the pedal force required to hold the aircraft at military rated power (page 8

- C. The following specific flight conditions should be discussed in the Flight Manual in addition to the normal subjects:
  - \*1. Dampers-off flight is safe but pilot induced oscillations are possible. Correction for pilot induced oscillation is to release controls (page 12
  - \*\*2. During dusk and night flights reflection from the blast shield to the occupant of the rear seat can cause fake bogies, disorientation and vertigo (page 4
  - \*3. Loud airhorn noises may be generated during high speed dives (page 7
  - \*\*4. Nose wheel steering system characteristics can cause divergent directional oscillations during take-off. The correction is to turn-off nose wheel steering (page 8
    - \*5. The approach to stall is indicated by a wide buffet margin, a wing drop tendency nearer the stall, and a lateral oscillation just prior to the stall (page 11
  - \*6. A roll-off in the direction of applied rudder pedal may be encountered during low speed side-slips (page 13

- \*7. The aircraft can be flown and landed with the aileron-rudder interconnect failed (engaged during low speed flight) (page 16
- \*8. If possible, an asymmetric flap condition should be converted to a no flap condition for landing (page 15
- \*9. If an asymmetric flap landing must be made, the recommended minimum speeds are 180 knots IAS in the final turn, 170 knots on final, and 160 knots at touchdown. Up to full aileron may be required (page 15
- \*10. An asymmetric flap condition after take-off, occurring as take-off flaps are raised, does not present a problem (page 15
- \*11. An asymmetric flap condition during a go-around, occurring as full flaps are raised, does not present a problem unless combined with a single engine condition with the operative engine on the same side as the down flap. For this condition, full alleron is required at speeds up to 170 knots IAS (page 15

### APPENDIXI

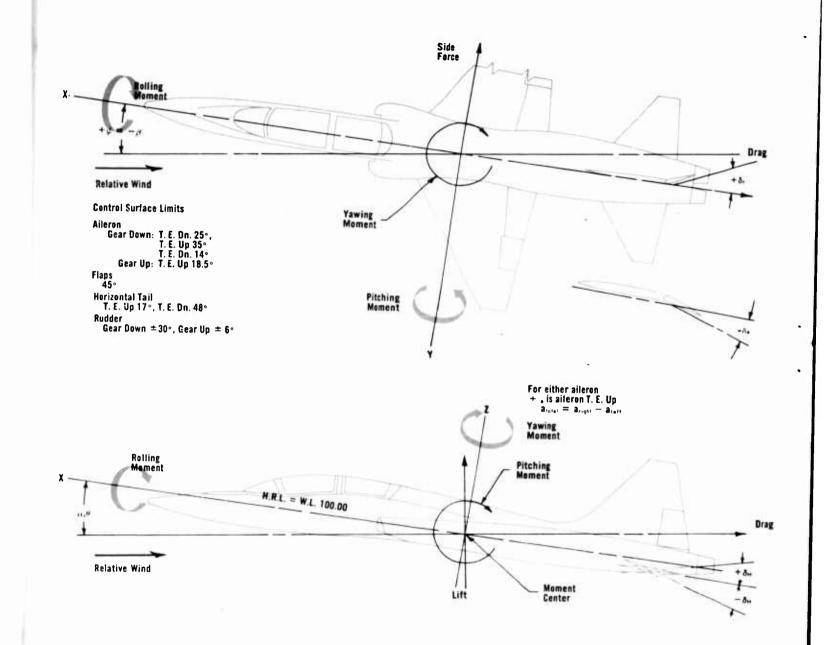
# data analysis methods

#### REFERENCES

The data presented in this report was reduced and analyzed using the following references:

- 1. MIL-F-8785(ASG), "Flying Qualities of Piloted Aircraft."
- 2. AFFTC-TR-59-21, "AFFTC Stability and Control Techniques."
- 3. U.S. Standard Atmosphere.
- 4. AFFTC-TR-59-42, "Category I Flight Test."
- 5. AFFTC-TN-60-13, "Analog Computer Study of the T-38 Airplane in the Landing Configuration."
- \*6. Norair Memorandum, "Evaluation of Airplane Transients," dated 4 September 1959.

\*NOTE: The T-38 aircraft has nonlinear damping characteristics which complicates the obtaining of damping ratio data from dynamic pulses. This reference was used as the aid in deducing the damping characteristics presented in this report. The damping ratios reduced by the method outlined in this reference do not show the definite increase in damping noted by the pilot when the dampers are operative.



#### NOMENCLATURE

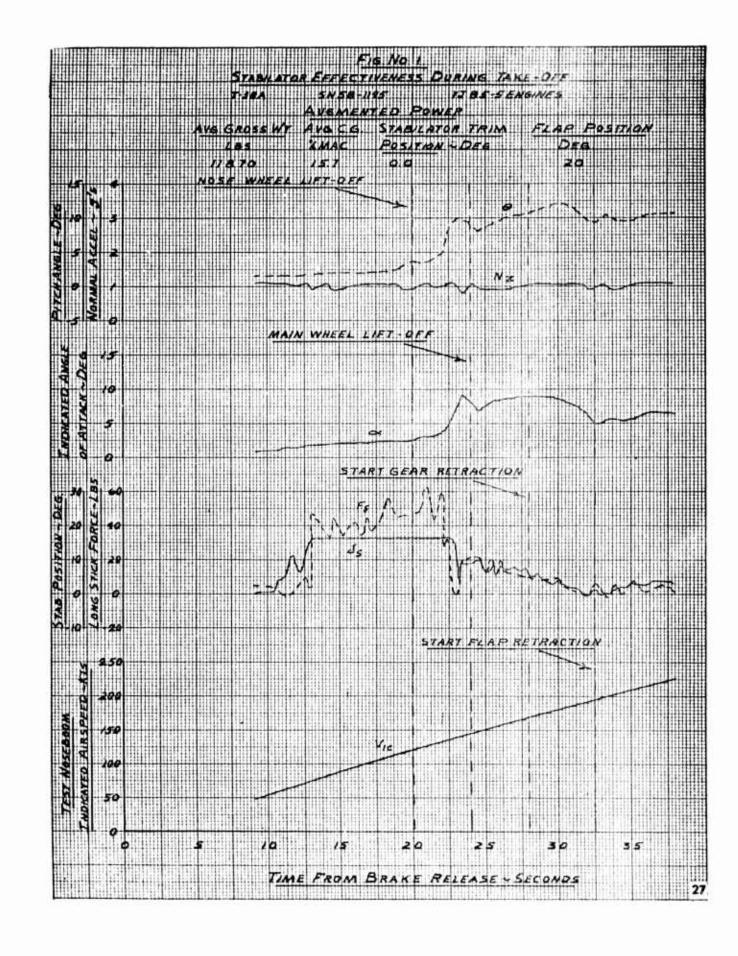
ARI	aileron-rudder inter-	
	connect	£L.
Ъ.	wing span	ft o/oMAC
cg	center of gravity	/oMAC
C1/2	cycles to damp to	
	one-half amplitude	
Cl/10	cycles to damp to one-	
·	tenth amplitude	
$c_{N}$	normal force coefficien	ıt,
	$.000675  \text{n}  (W/\delta_a)/M^2 \text{S}$	·
$F_a$	lateral stick force	lbs
Fr	rudder pedal force	lbs
$\mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{s}}$	longitudinal stick	
- 5	force	lbs
~	acceleration due to	IDB
g		ft/sec <sup>2</sup>
**	gravity	ft ft
Hp	pressure altitude	It
Hic	instrument corrected	4.
	indicated altitude	ft
M	free stream Mach	
	number	
n	normal load factor	g
n <sub>y</sub>	lateral load factor	
q'	dynamic pressure	lb/ft <sup>2</sup>
q <sub>c</sub>	impact pressure	lbs/ft <sup>2</sup>
q <sub>c</sub> S	wing area	g lb/ft <sup>2</sup> lbs/ft <sup>2</sup> ft <sup>2</sup>
Ta	ambient temperature	*K
vc	calibrated airspeed	kt
, C	and a state of all sheed	N.L

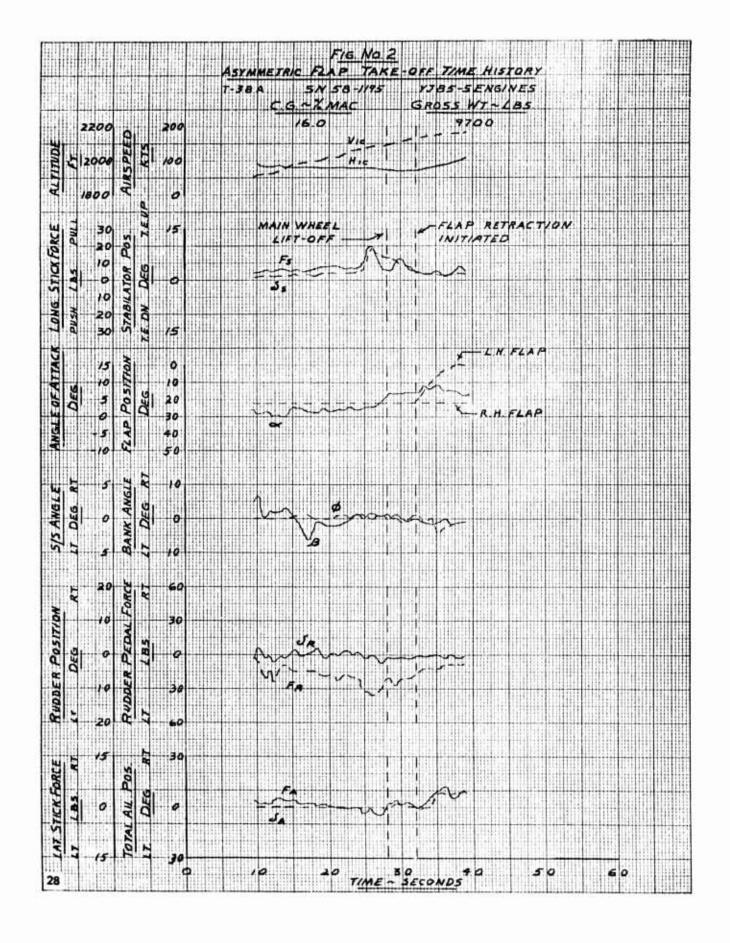
V <sub>e</sub>	equivalent airspeed	kt
vic	instrument corrected	,
, 1C	indicated airspeed	kt
$v_t$	true airspeed	kt
w	airplane gross	**
VV		11
	weight	lb
a.	angle of attack	deg
β	angle of sideslip	deg
& atot	*total aileron	
- 1000	deflection = $\delta a_R - \delta a_L$	deg
δr	rudder deflection	deg
δв	stabilizer deflection	deg
δa	$P_a/29.92$	
$\Delta P/q$	pressure coefficient	
ξ	damping ratio	
þ	pitch angle	deg
ė	pitch rate	deg/sec
θ Θ Θ	pitch acceleration	deg/sec <sup>2</sup>
au	period	sec
Ø	bank angle	deg
т Ф. Ф. Ф. Ф.	roll rate	deg/sec_
ø	roll acceleration	deg/sec2
ile	yaw rate	deg/sec
Ψ	yan race	GCR L BCC

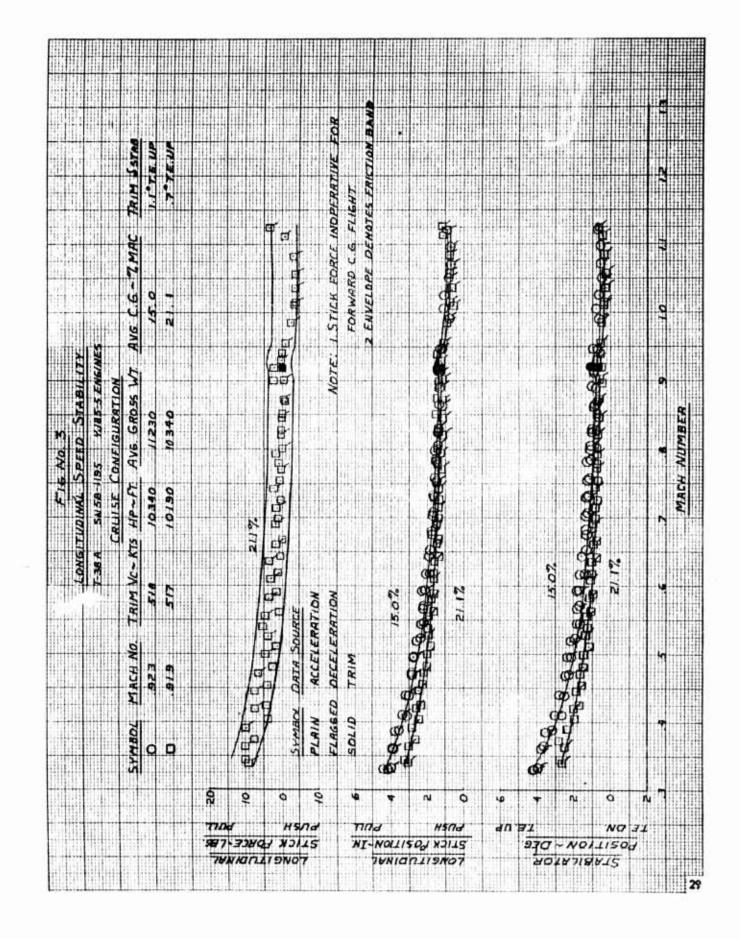
The subscript i denotes an indicated condition.

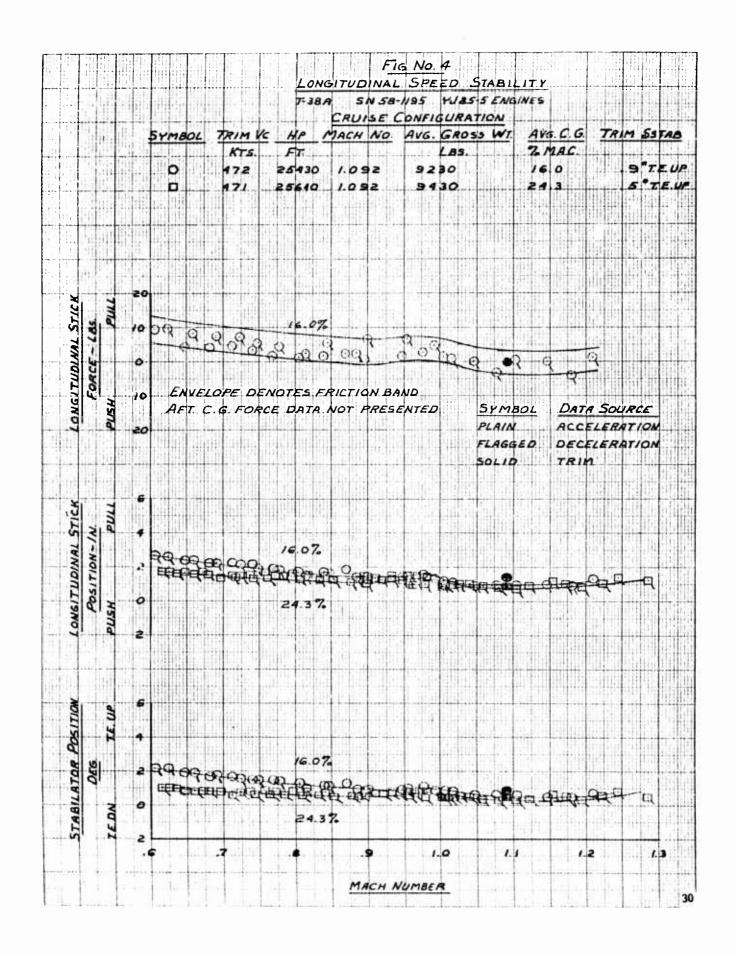
\*For either aileron  $+\delta_a$  is aileron trailing edge up.  $+\delta_{atot}$  is for a right roll.  $-\delta_{atot}$  is for a left roll.

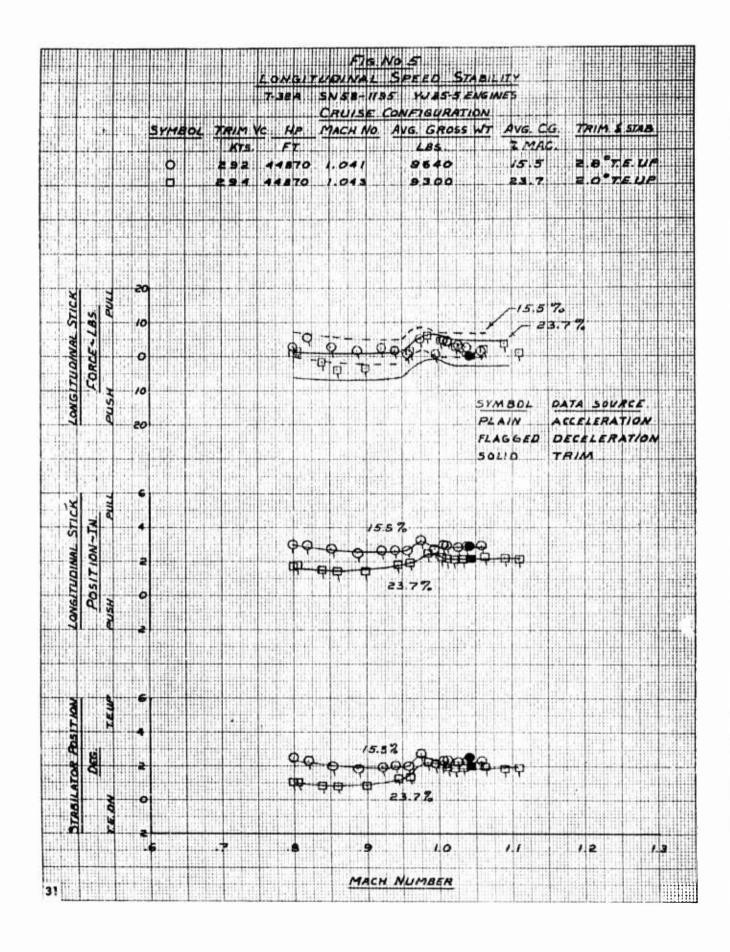
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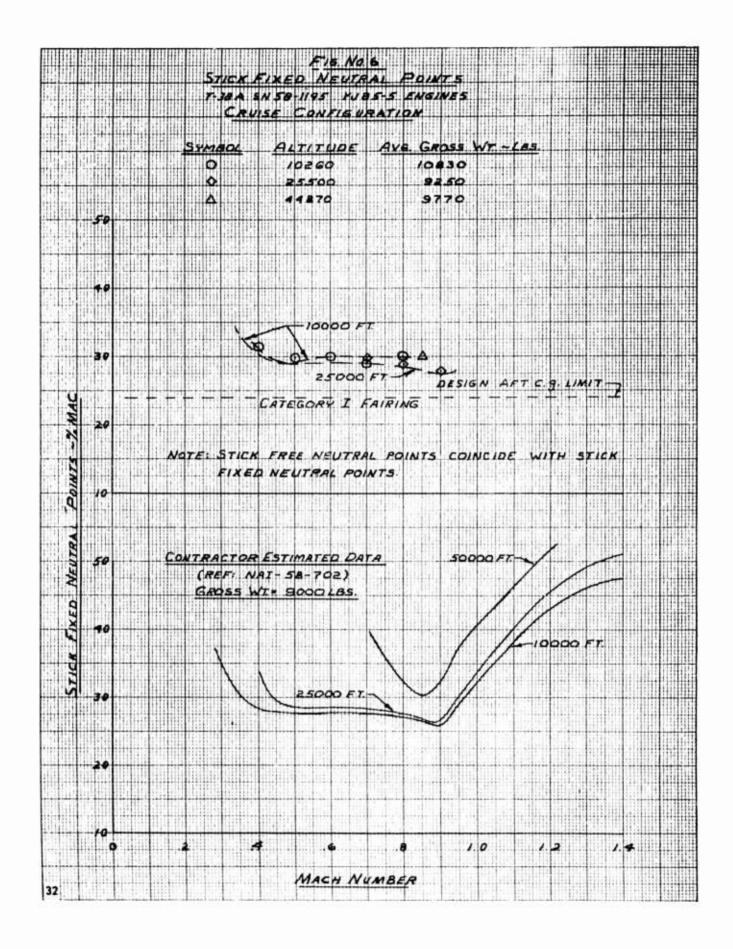


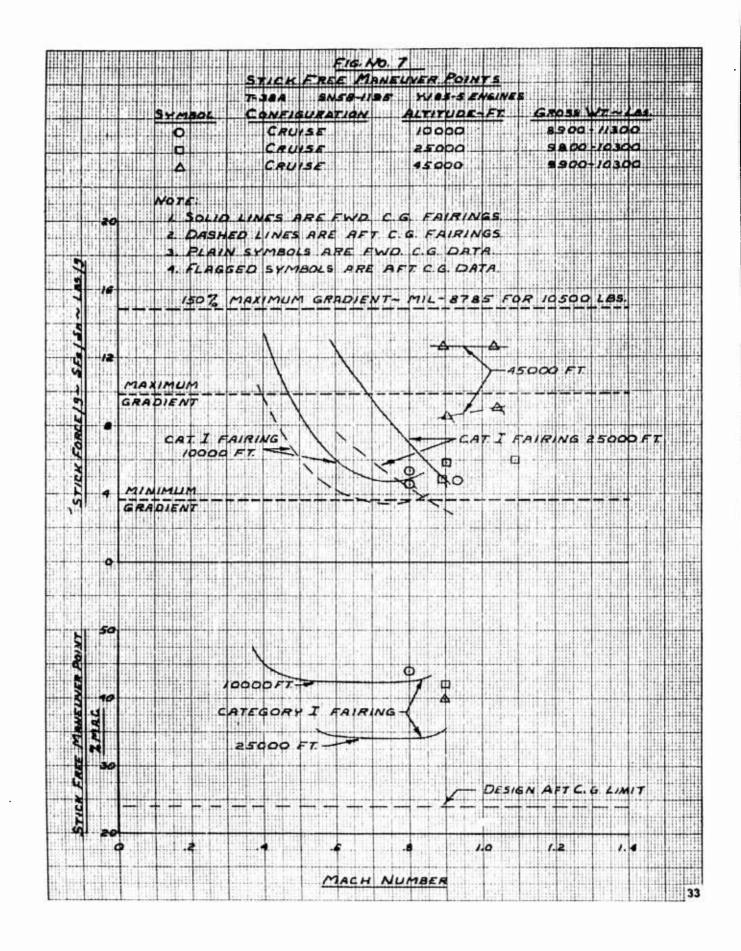


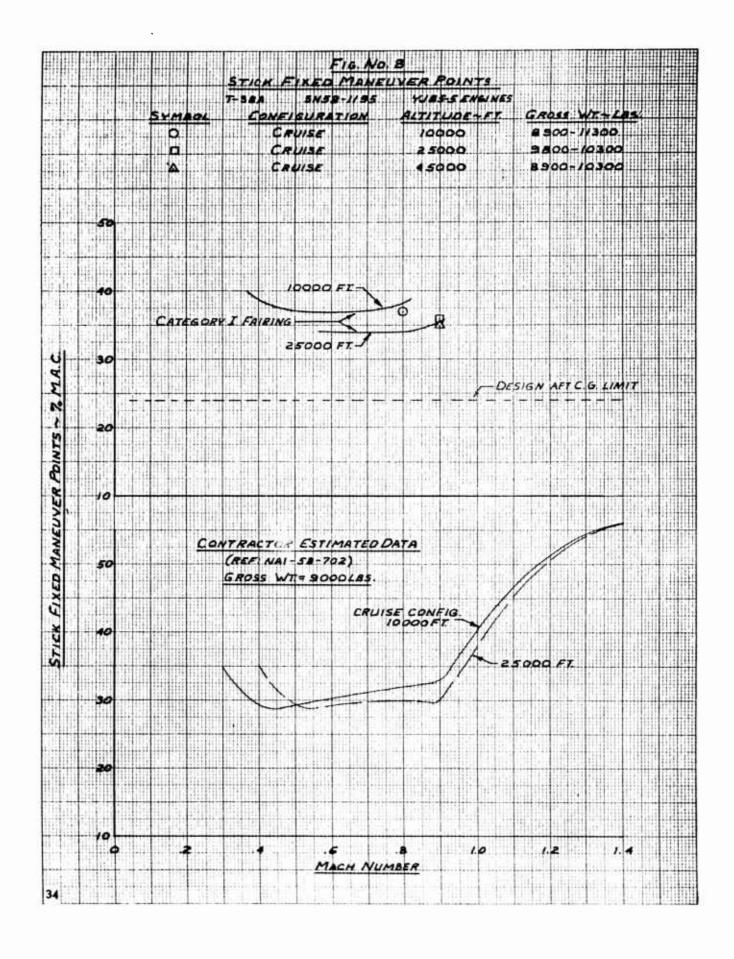


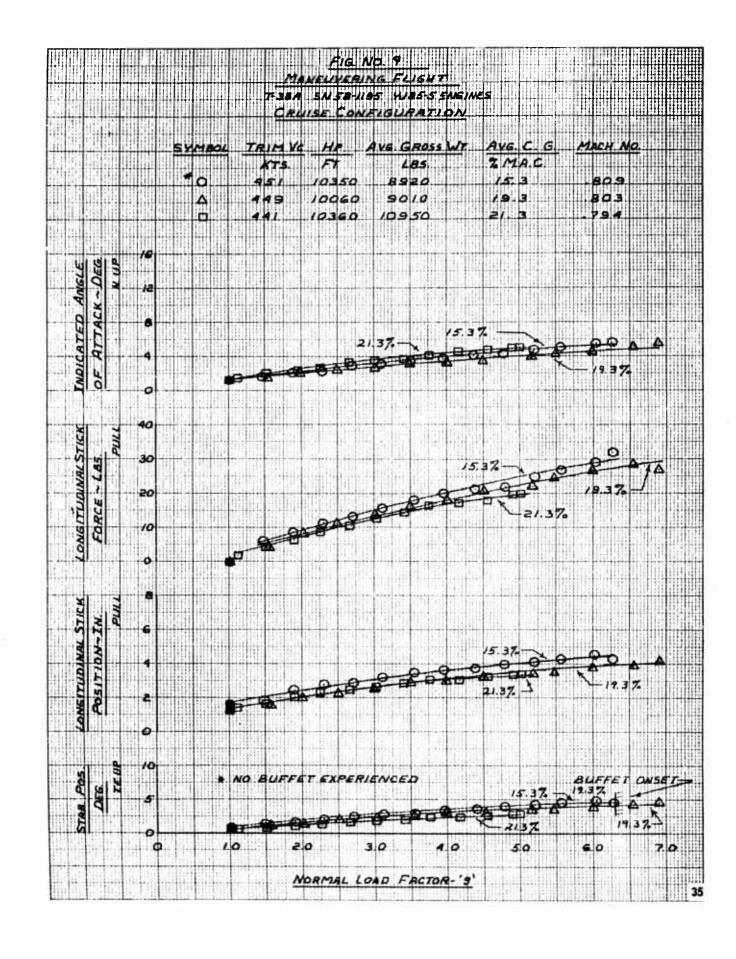


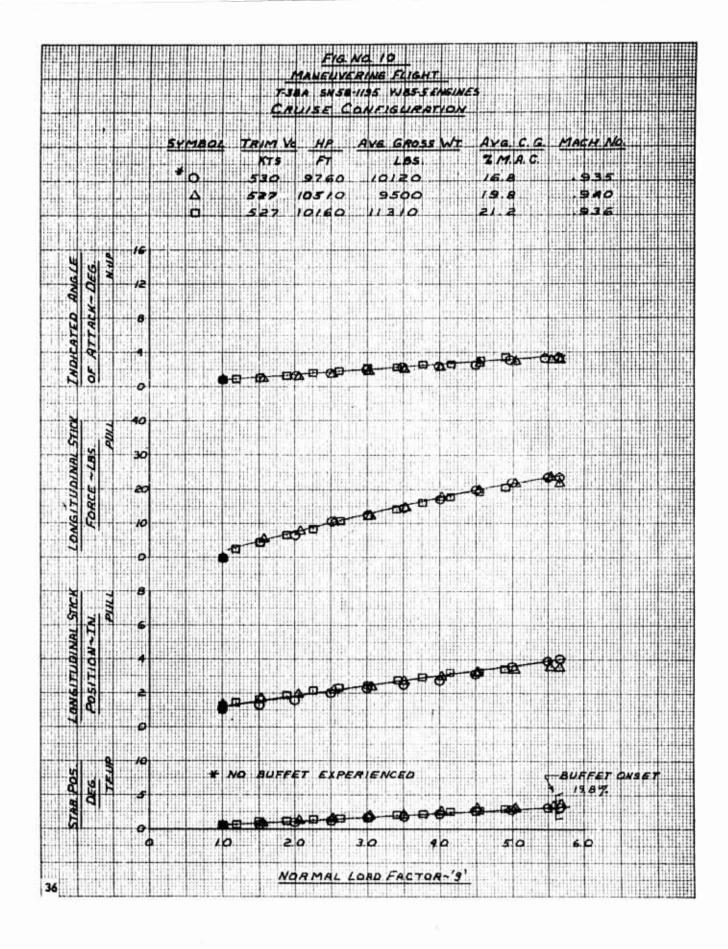


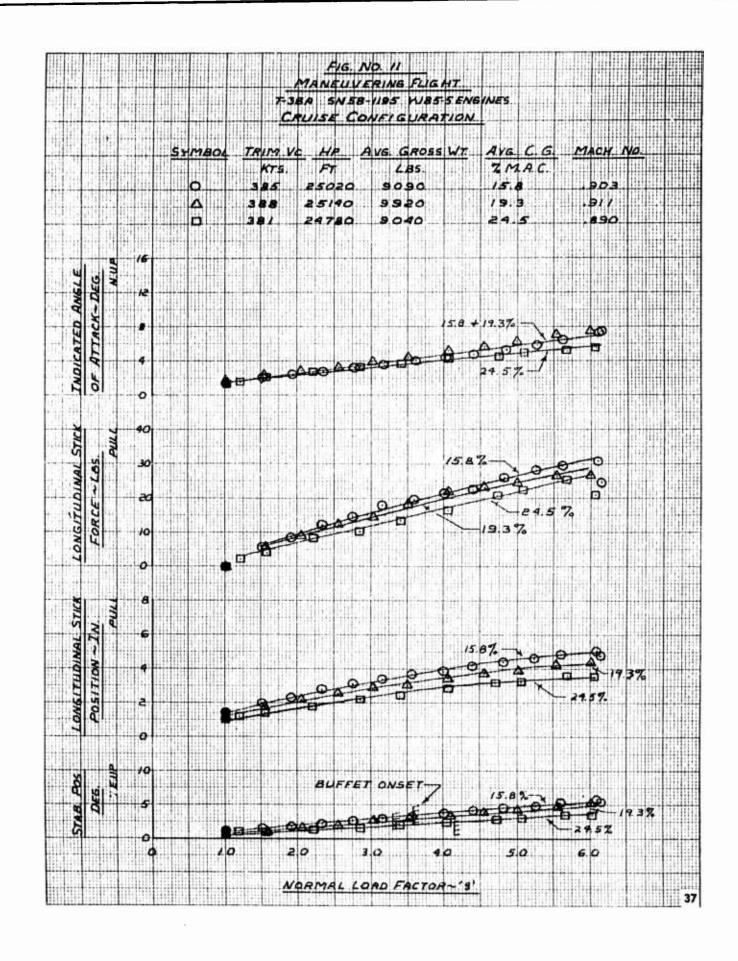


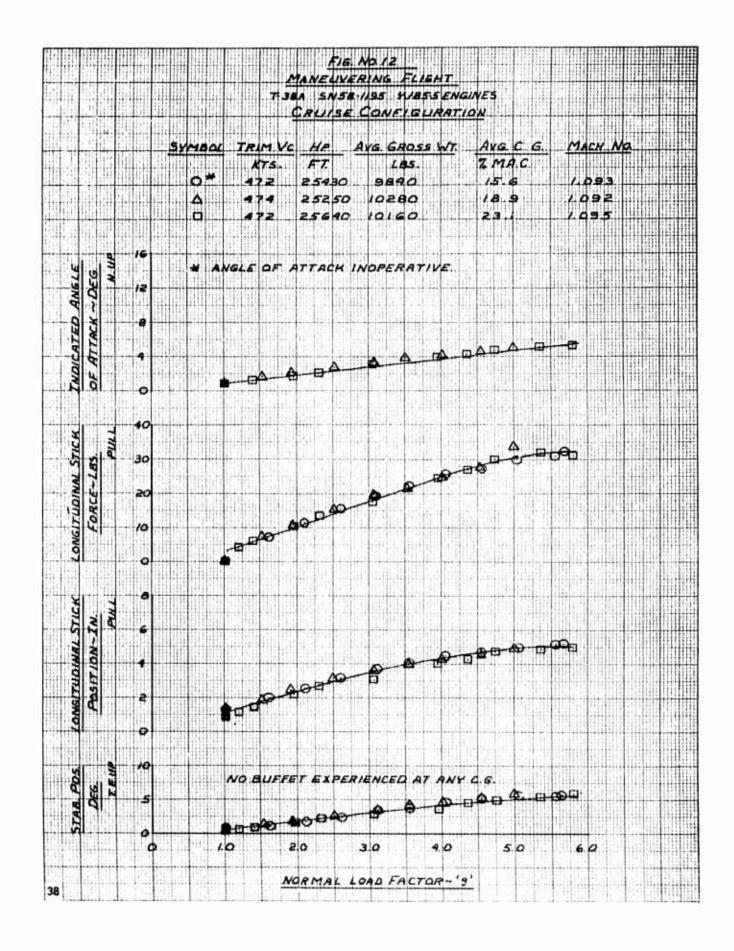


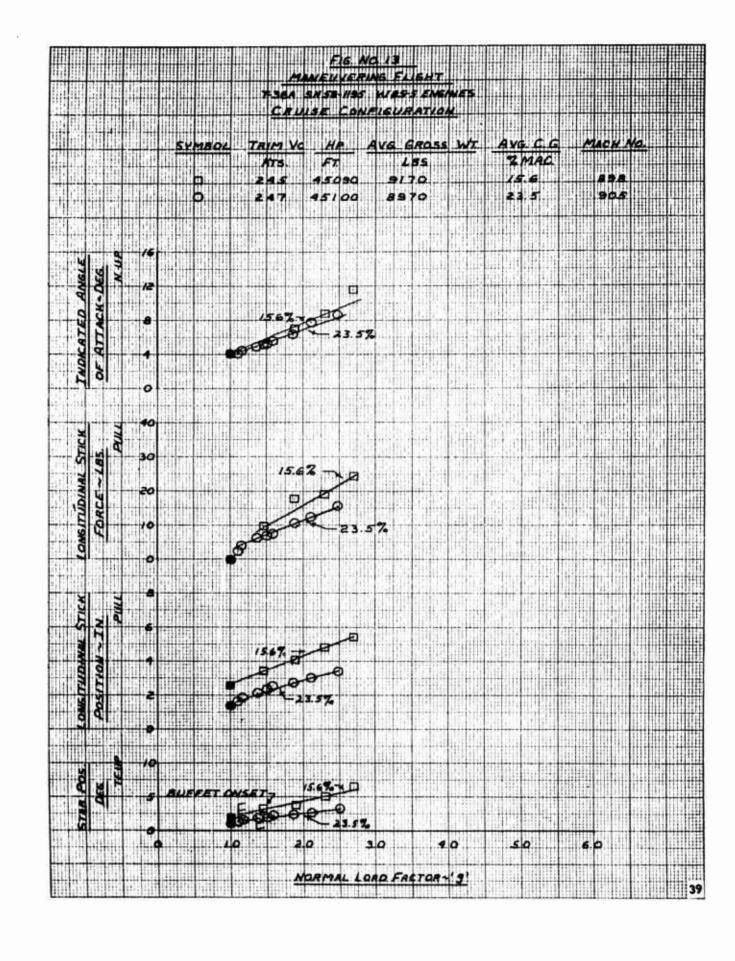


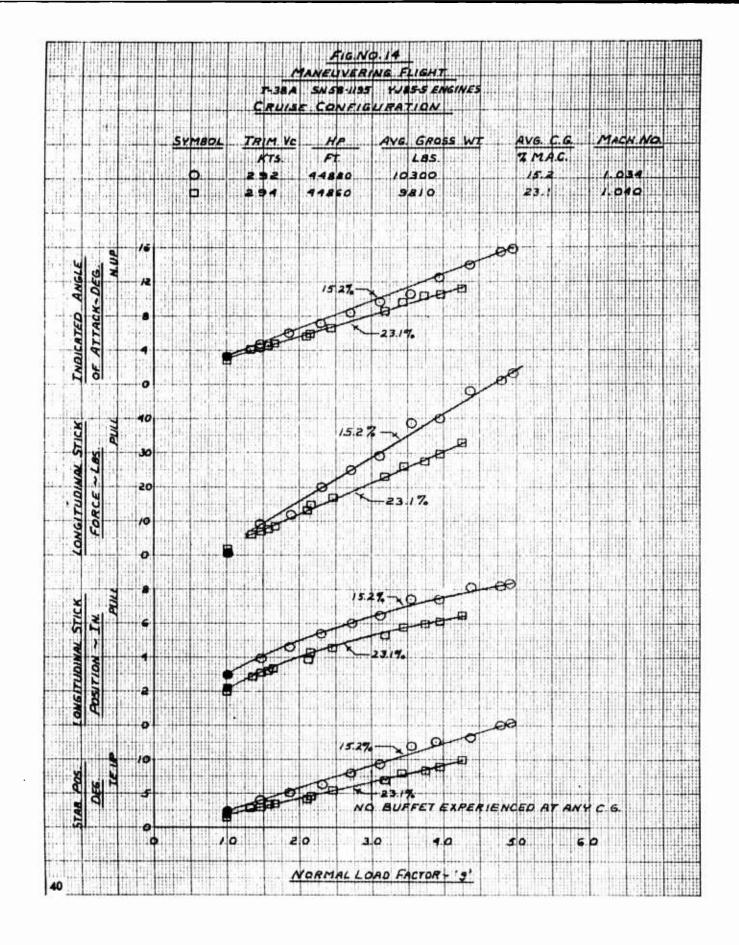


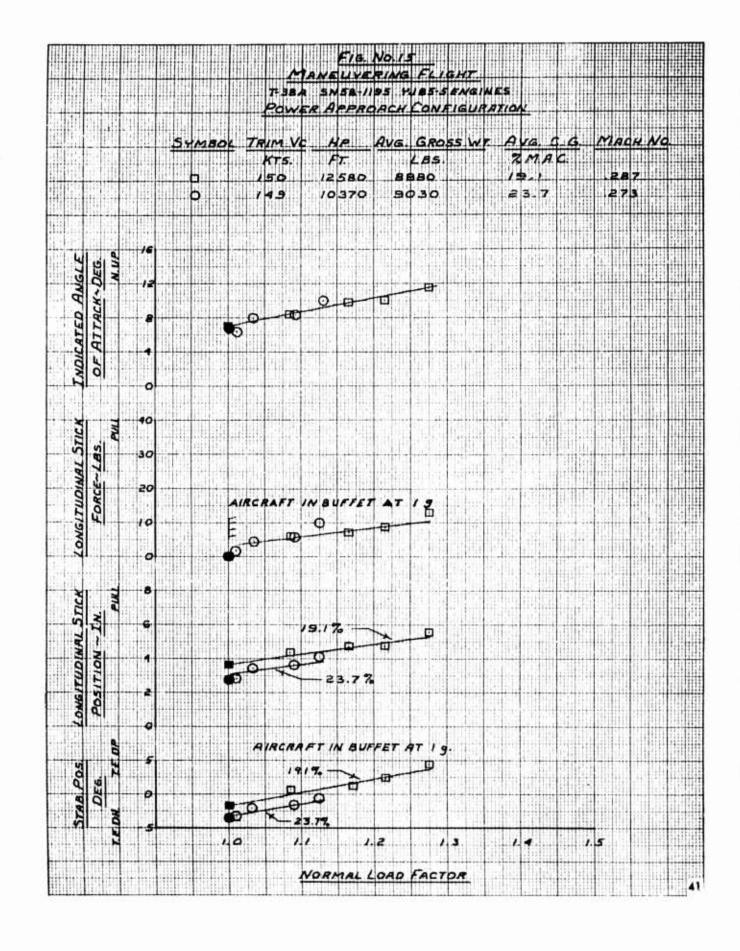


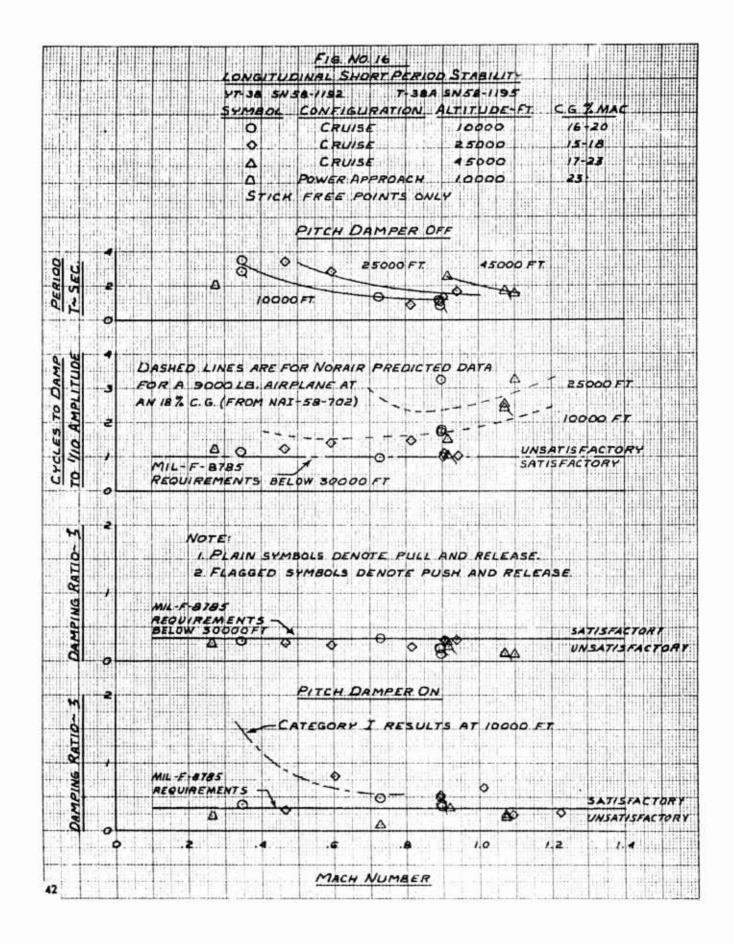


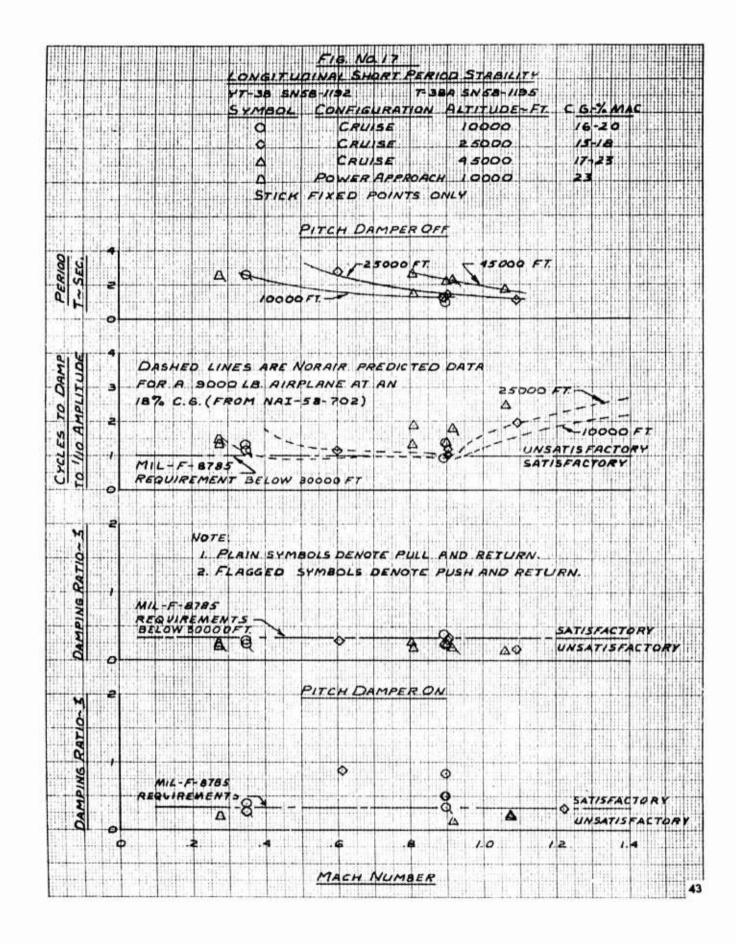


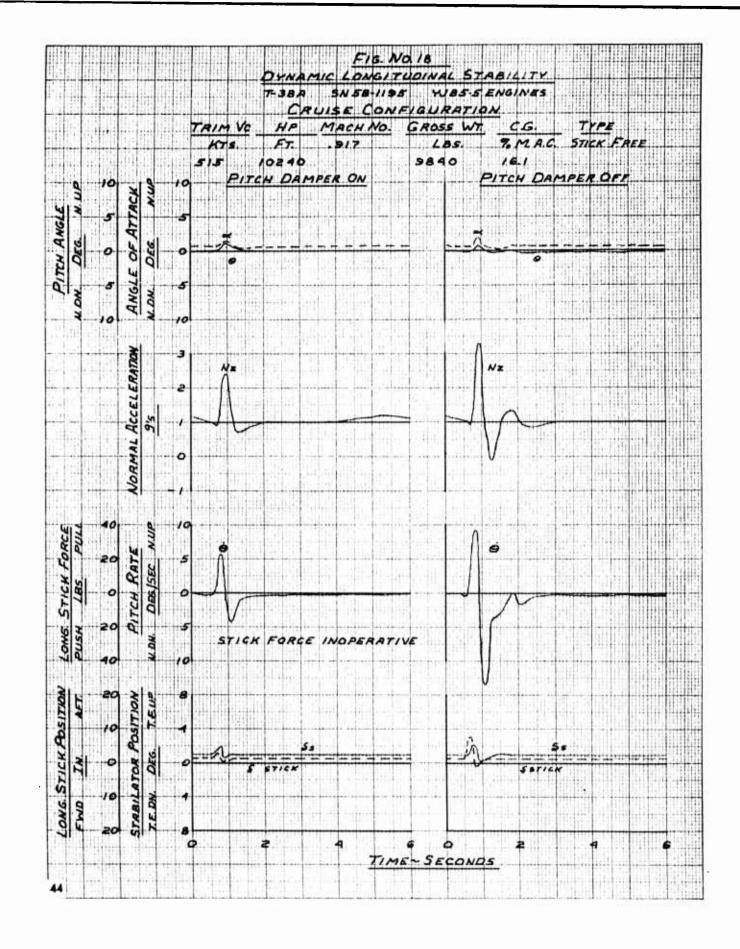


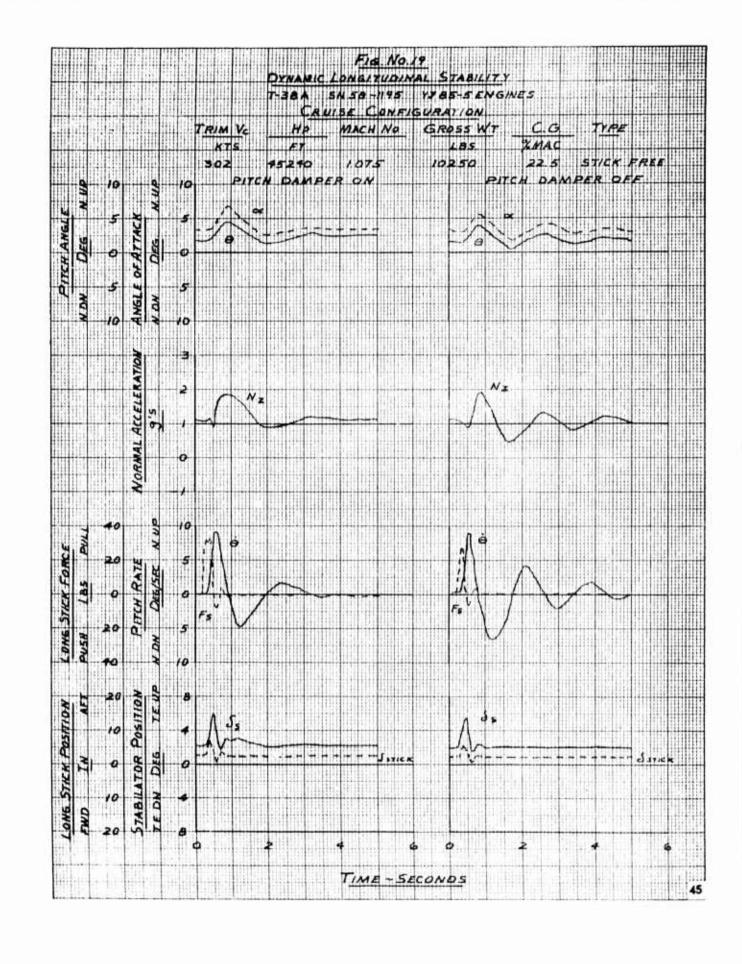


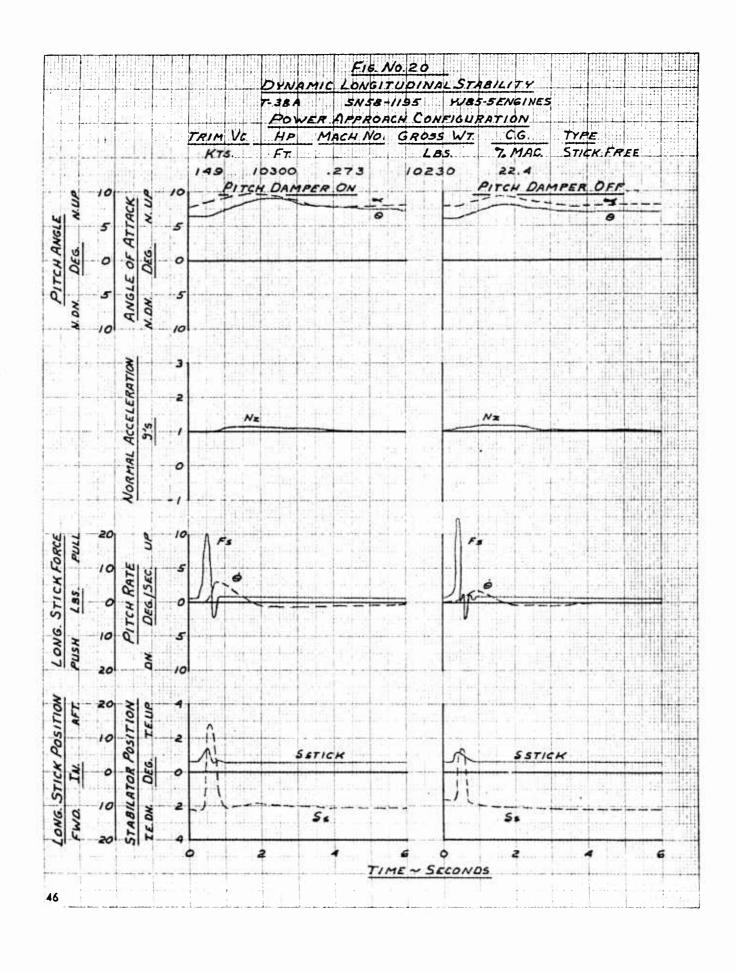


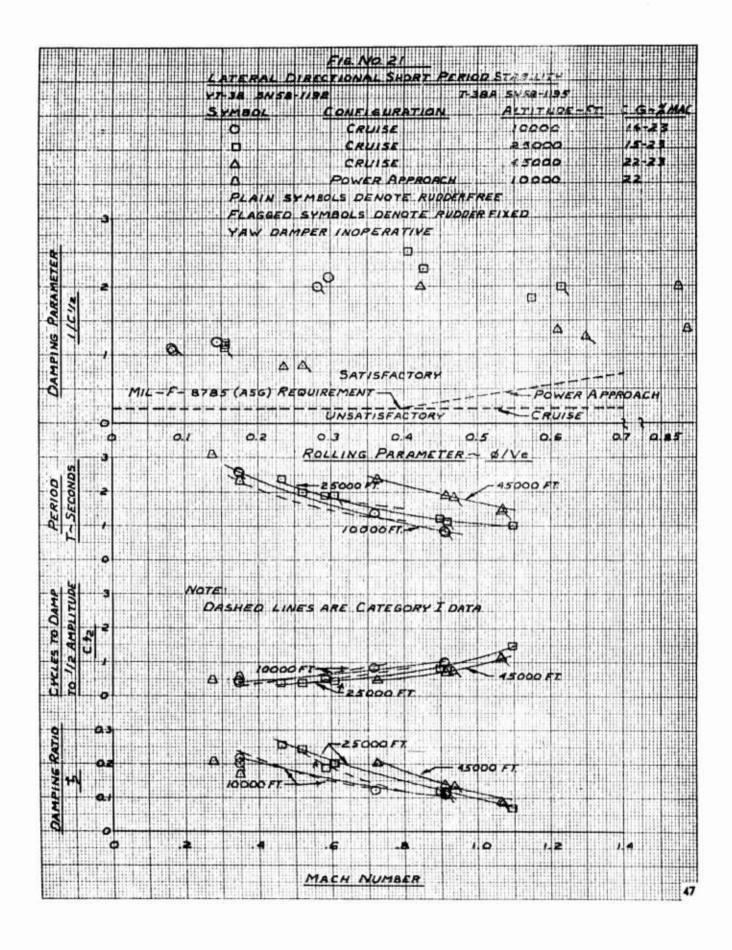


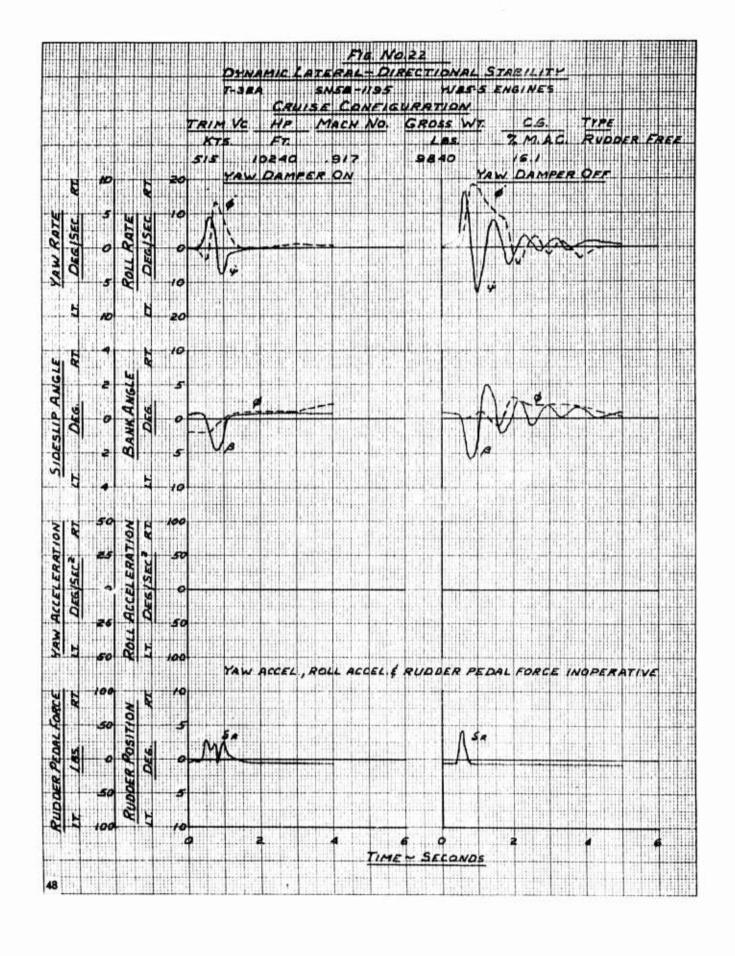


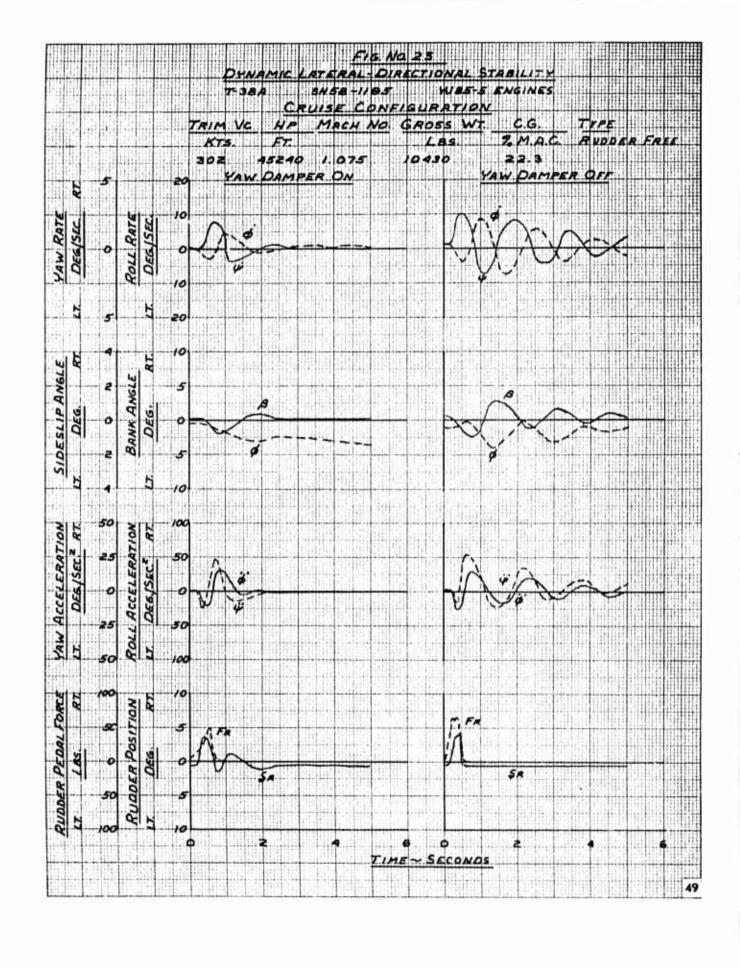


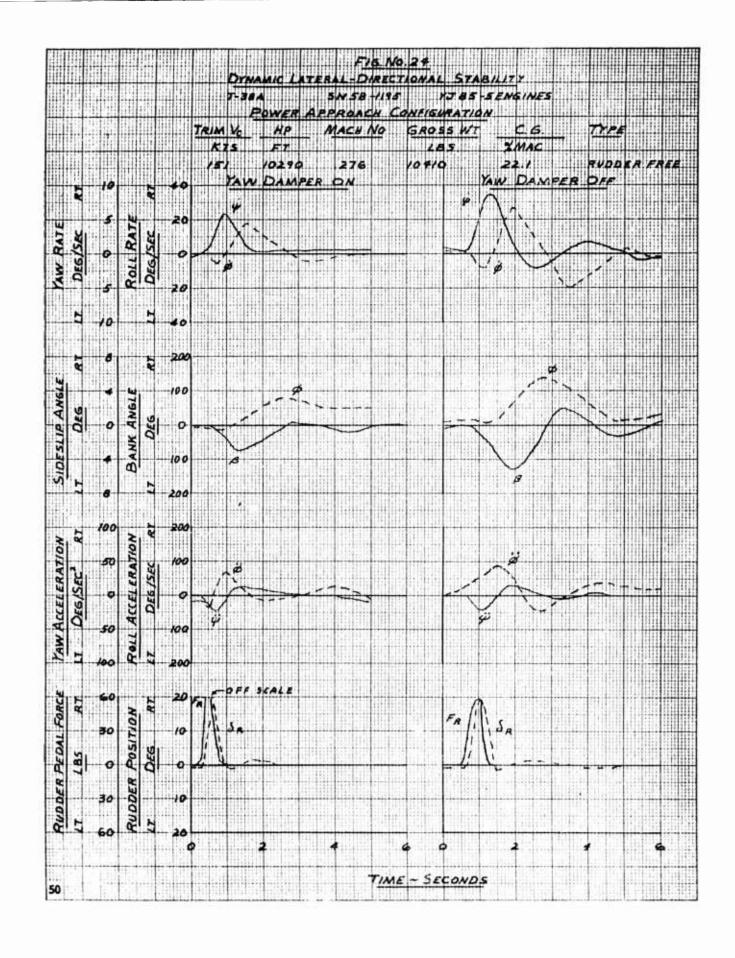


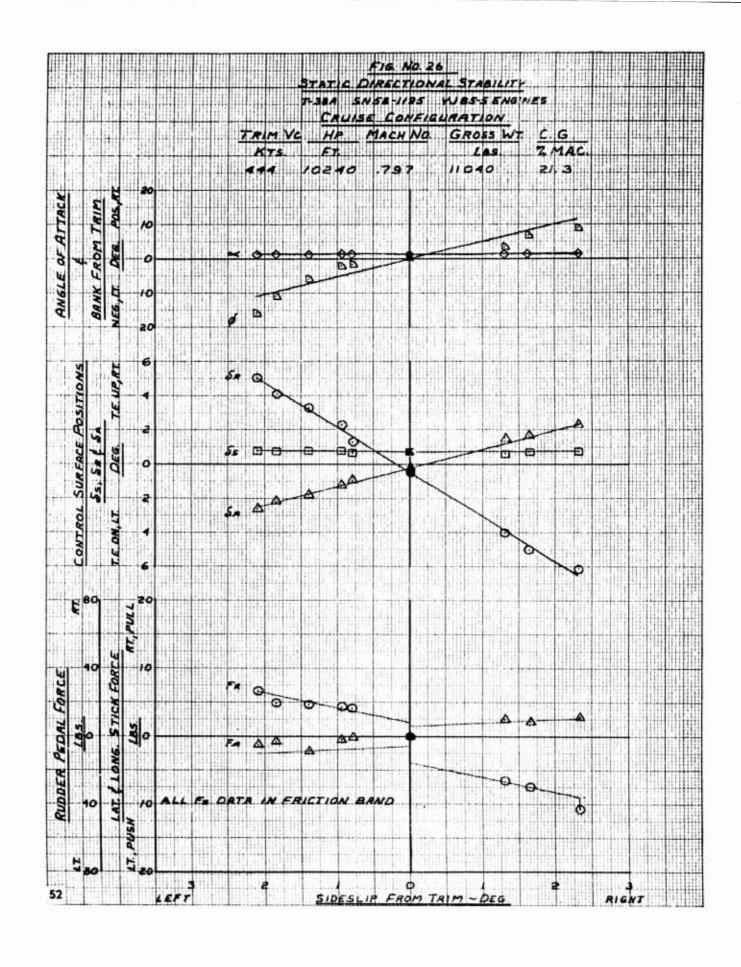


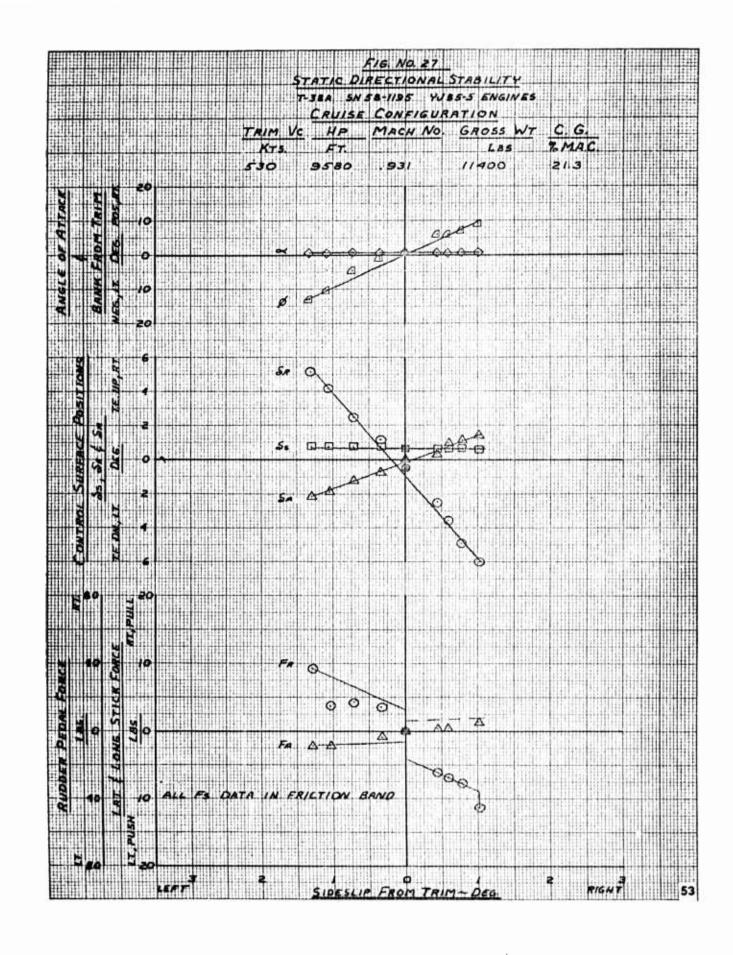


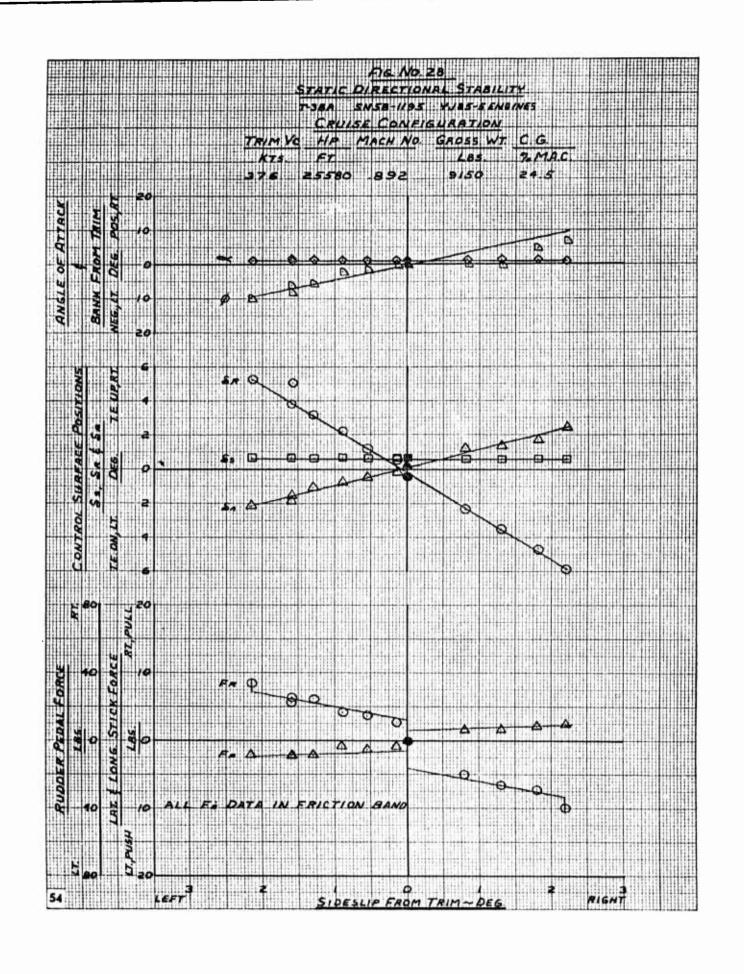


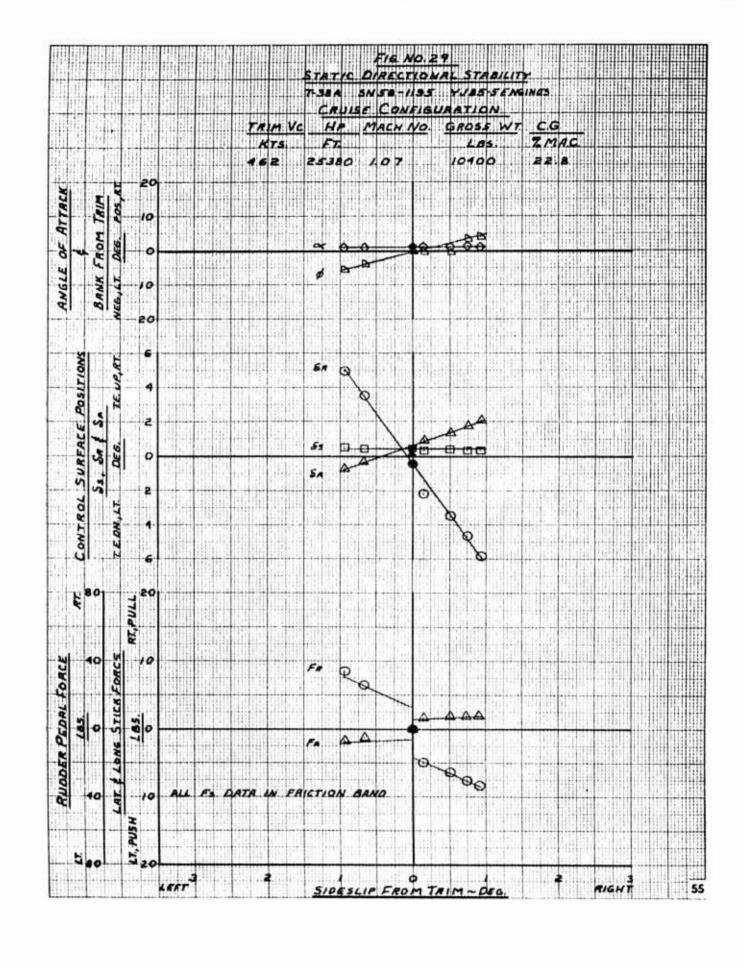


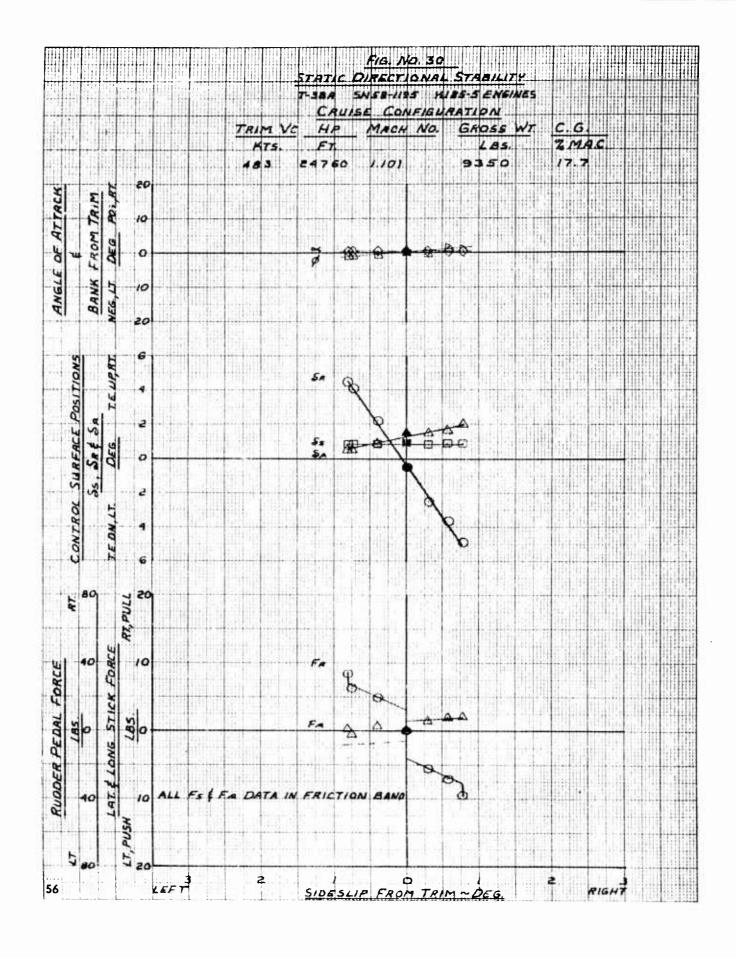


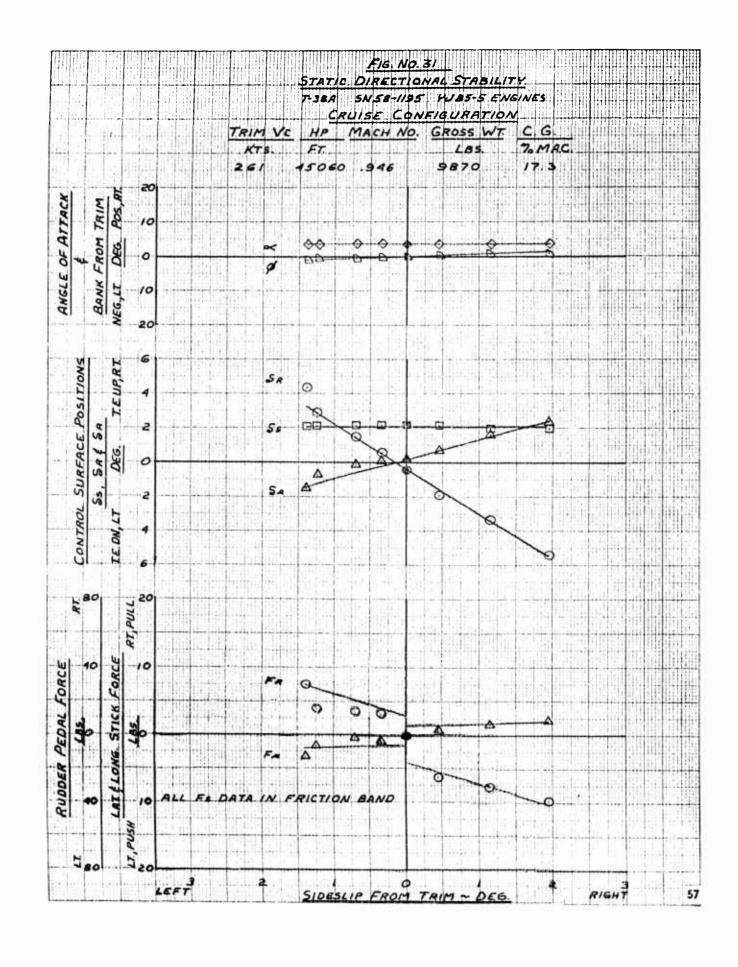


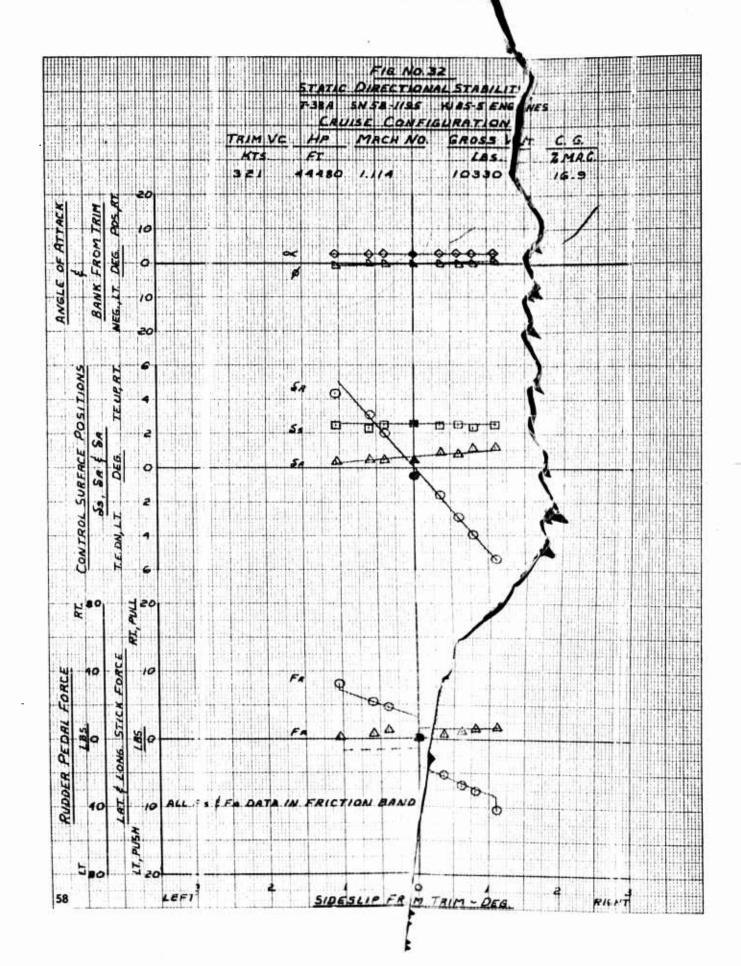


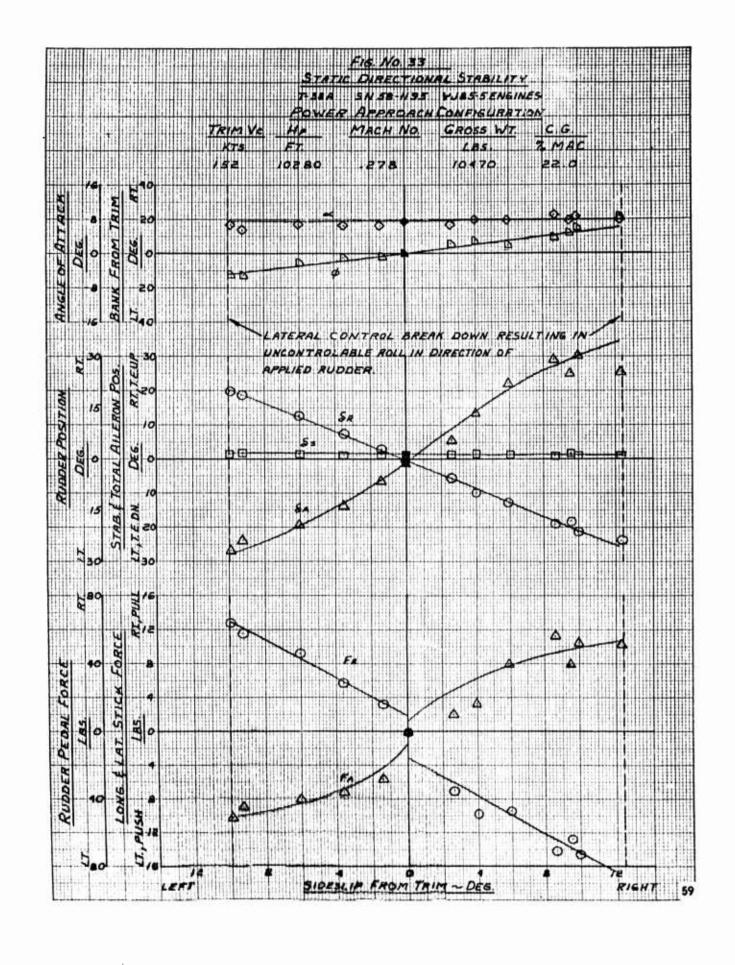


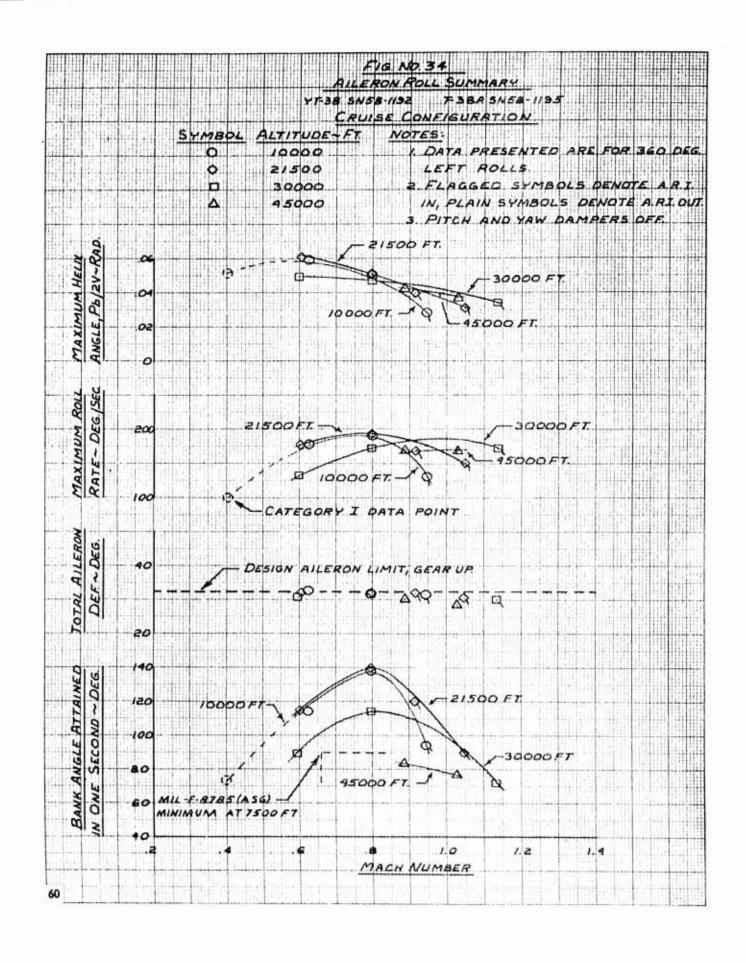


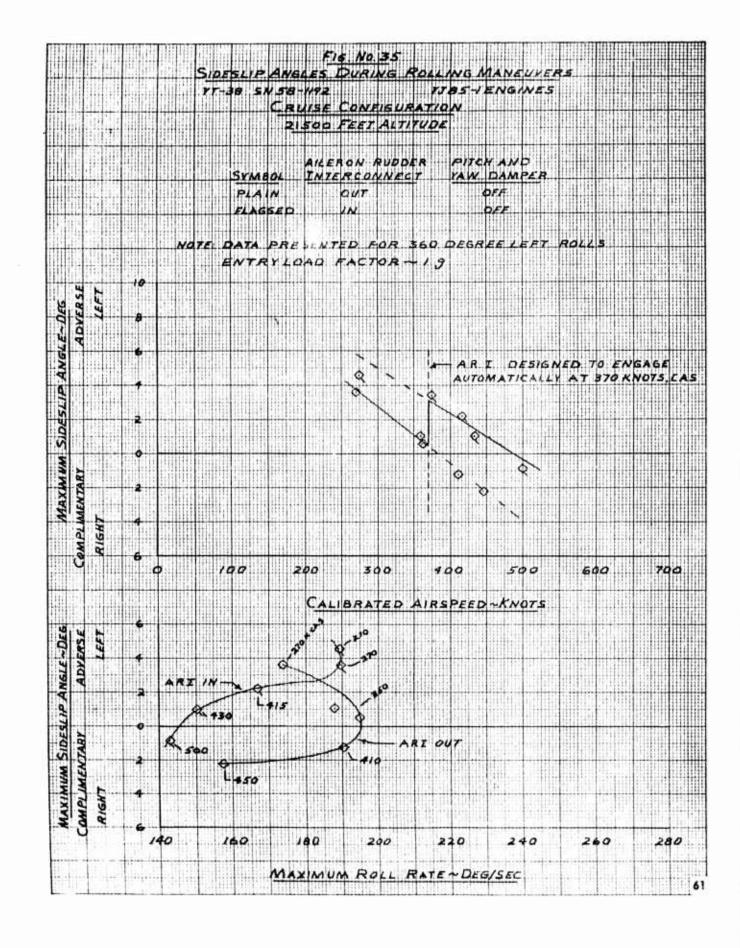


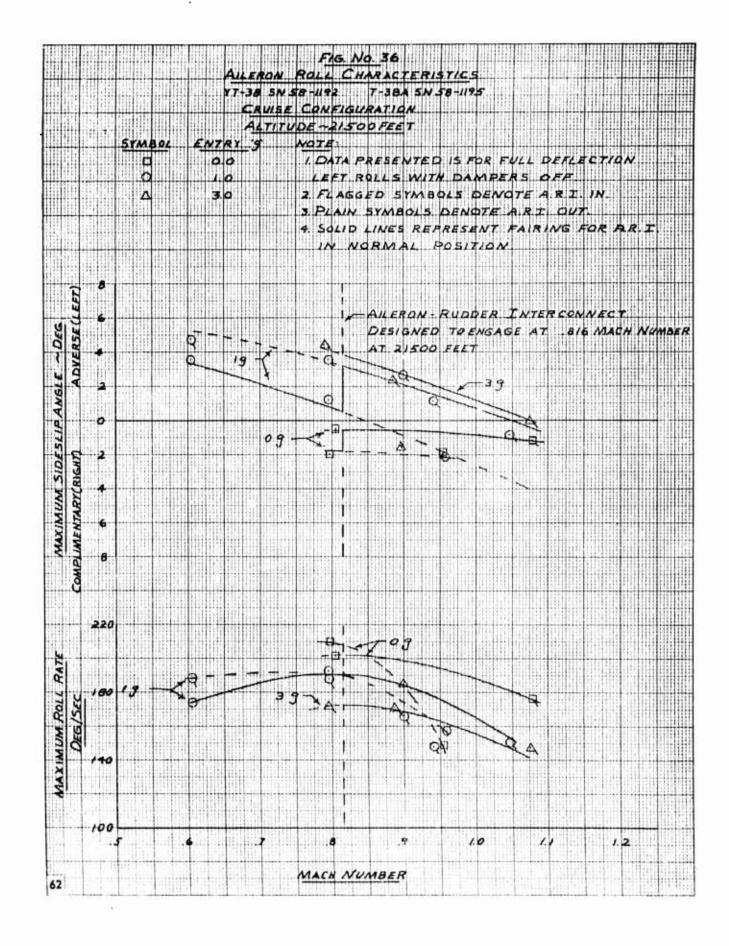


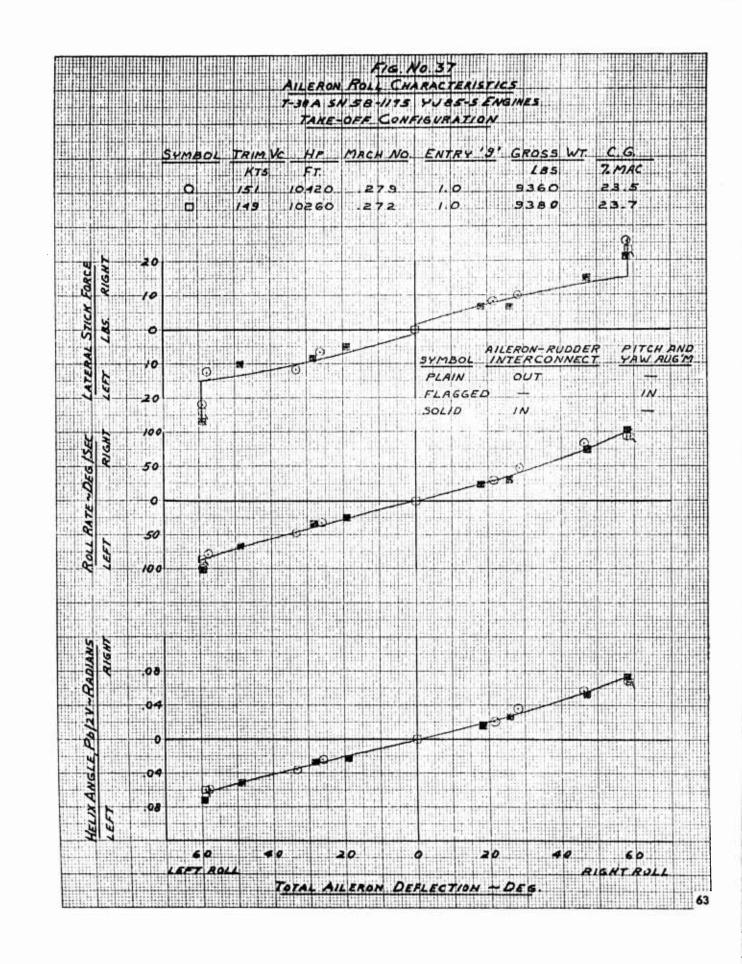


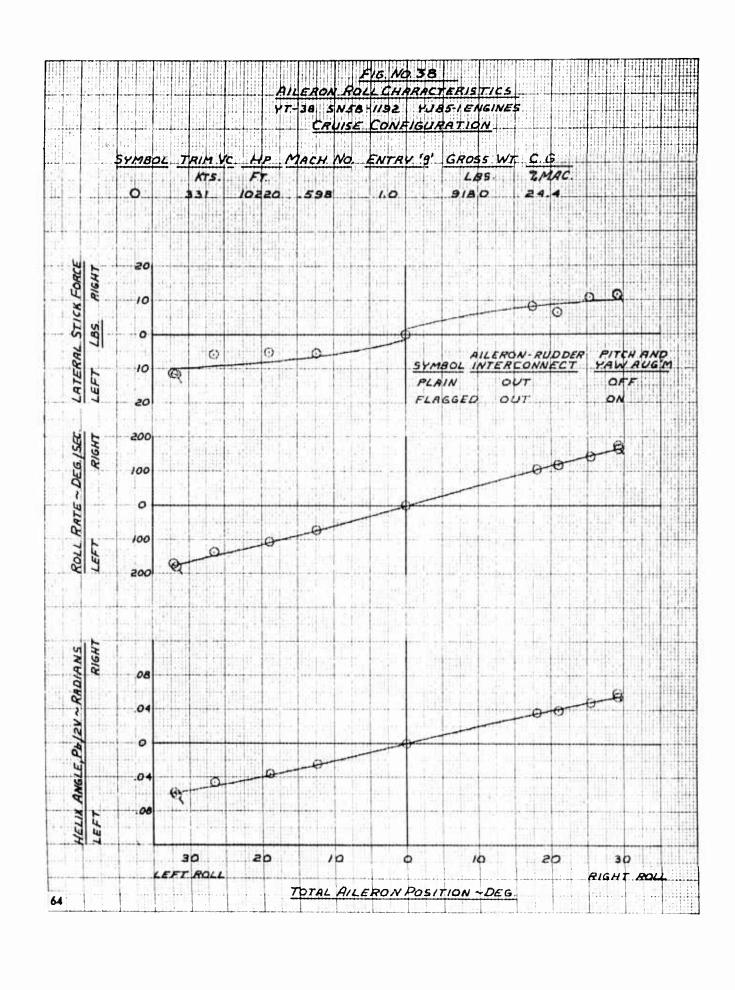


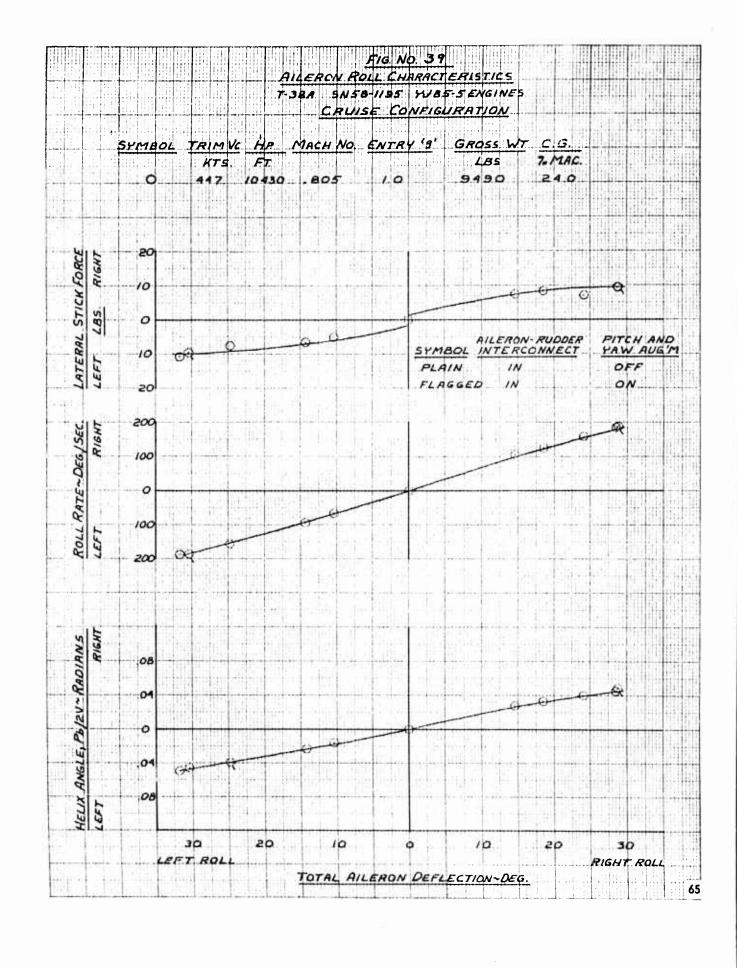


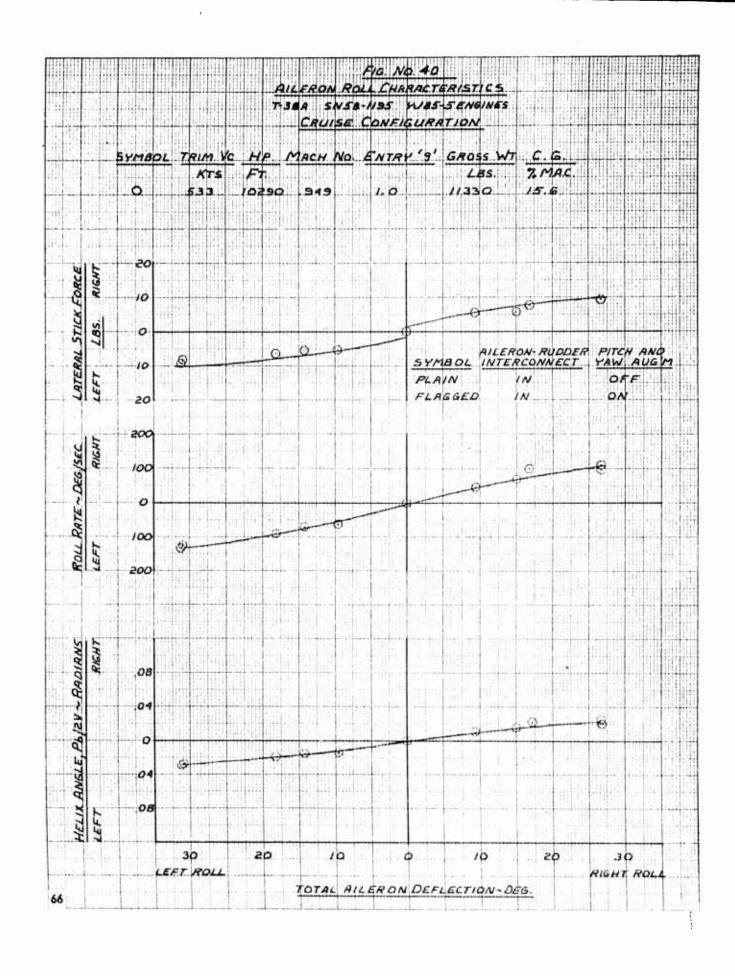


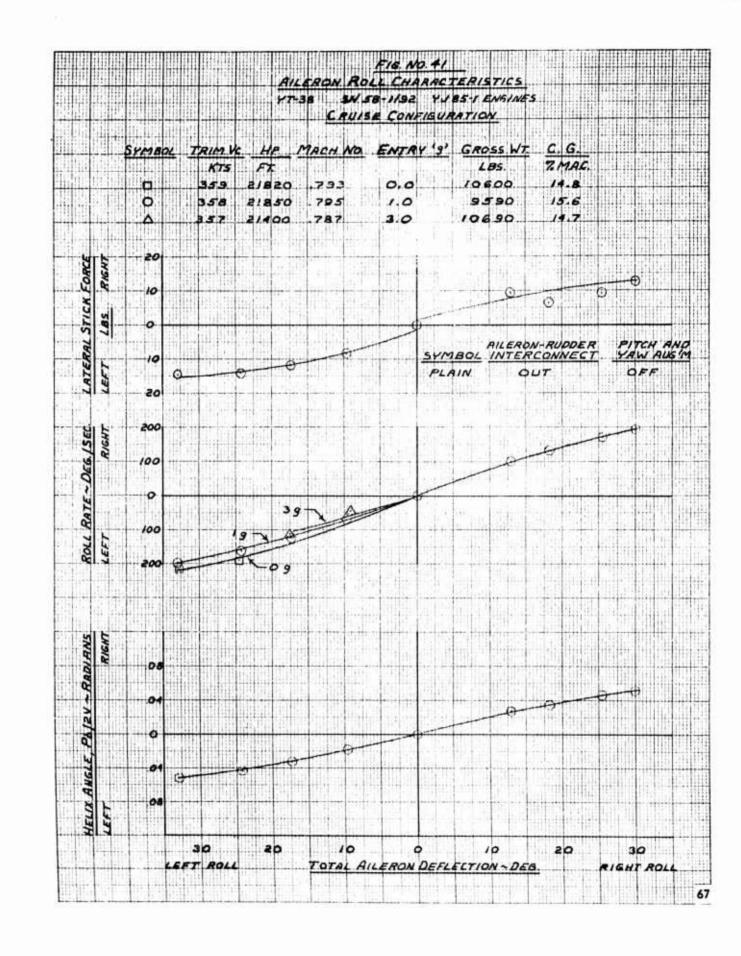


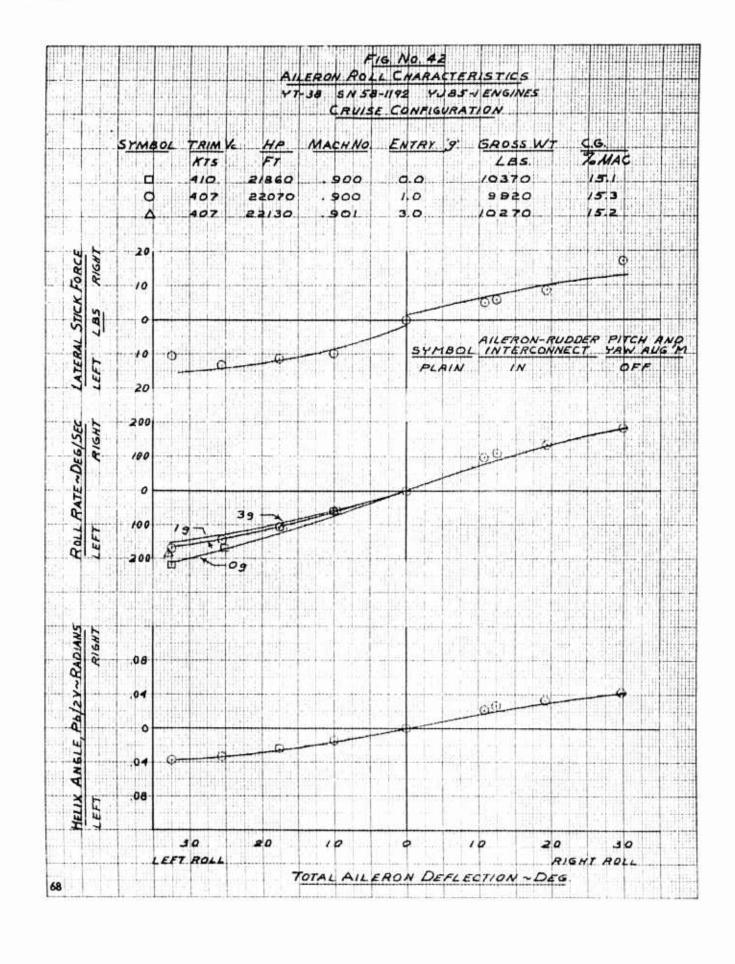


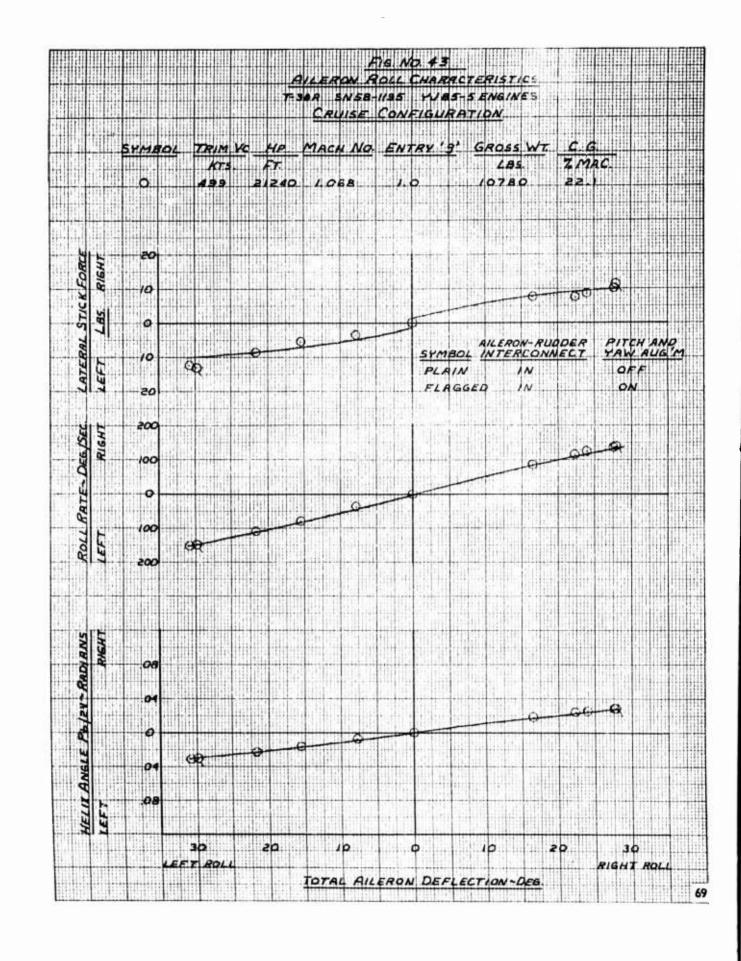


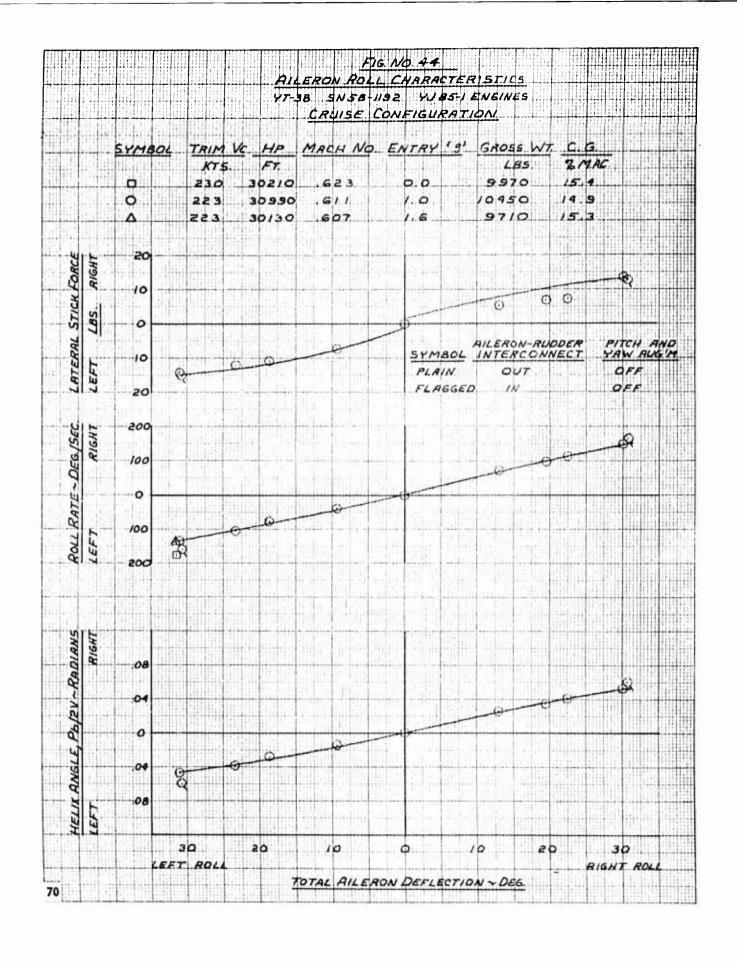


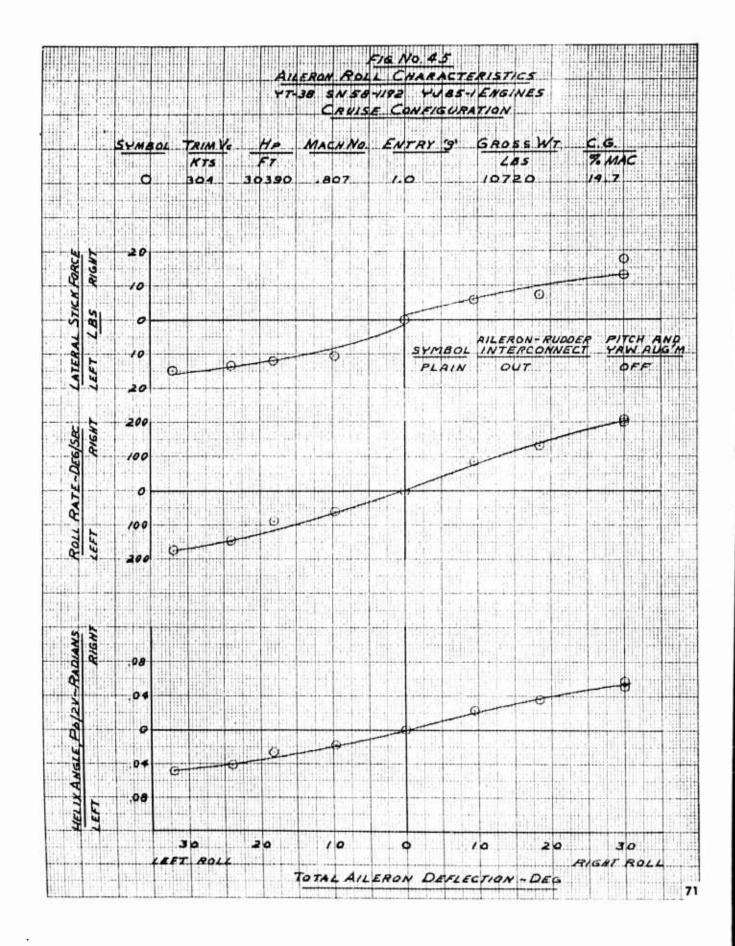


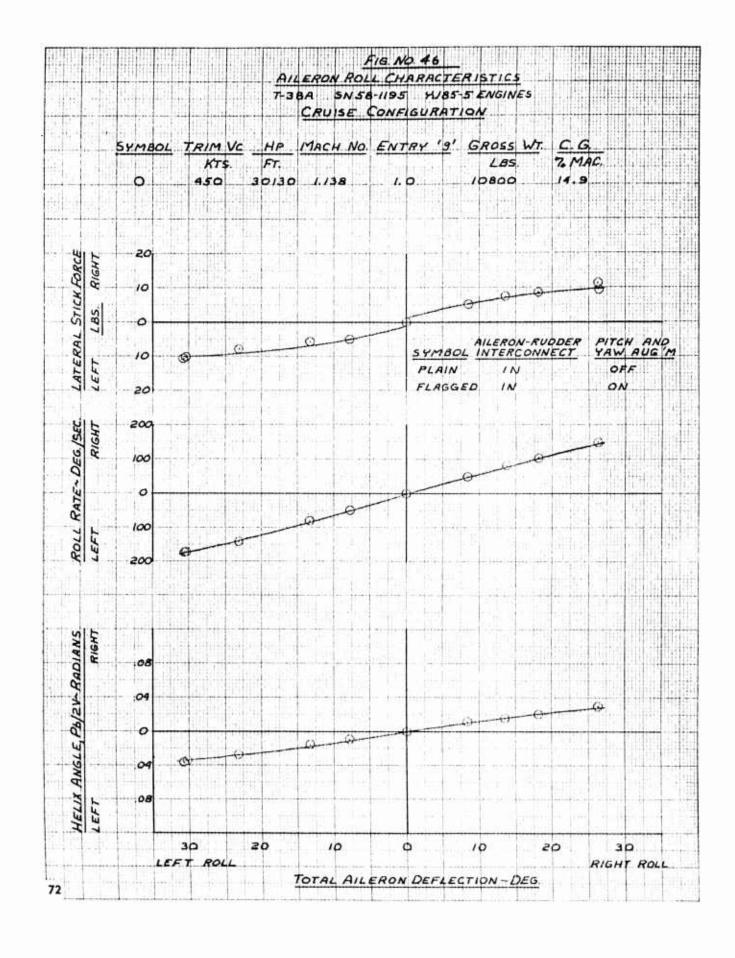


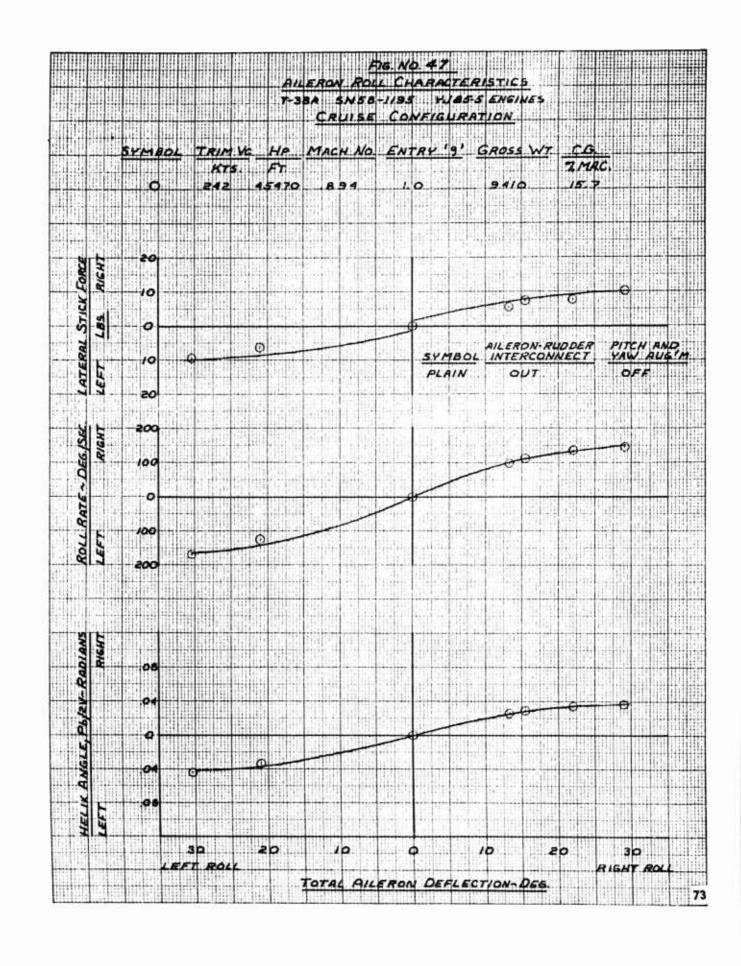


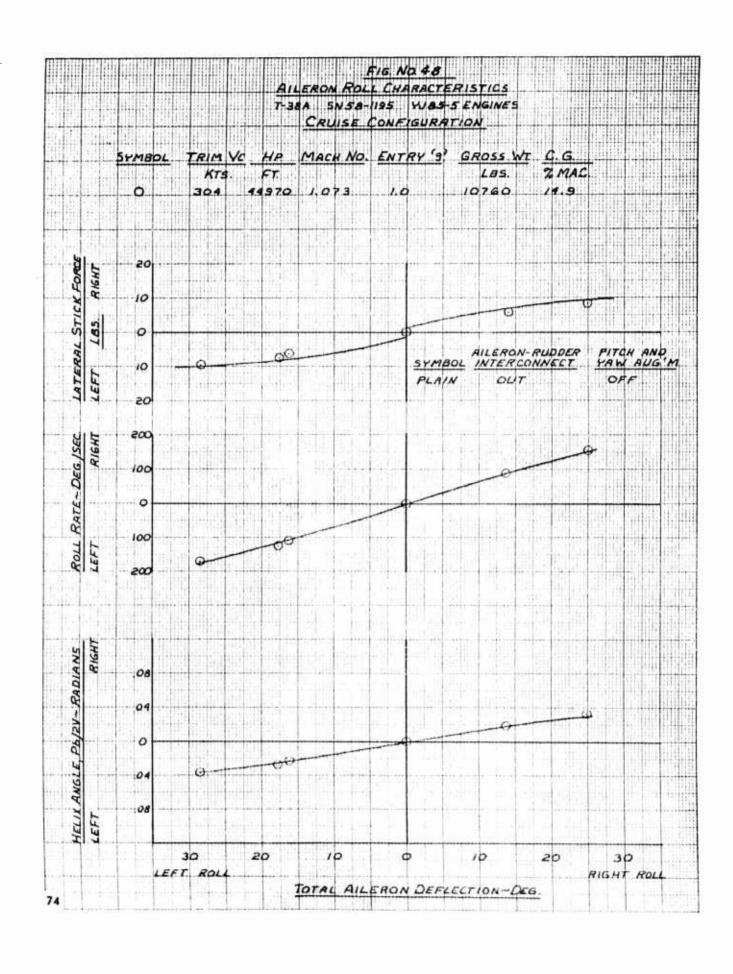


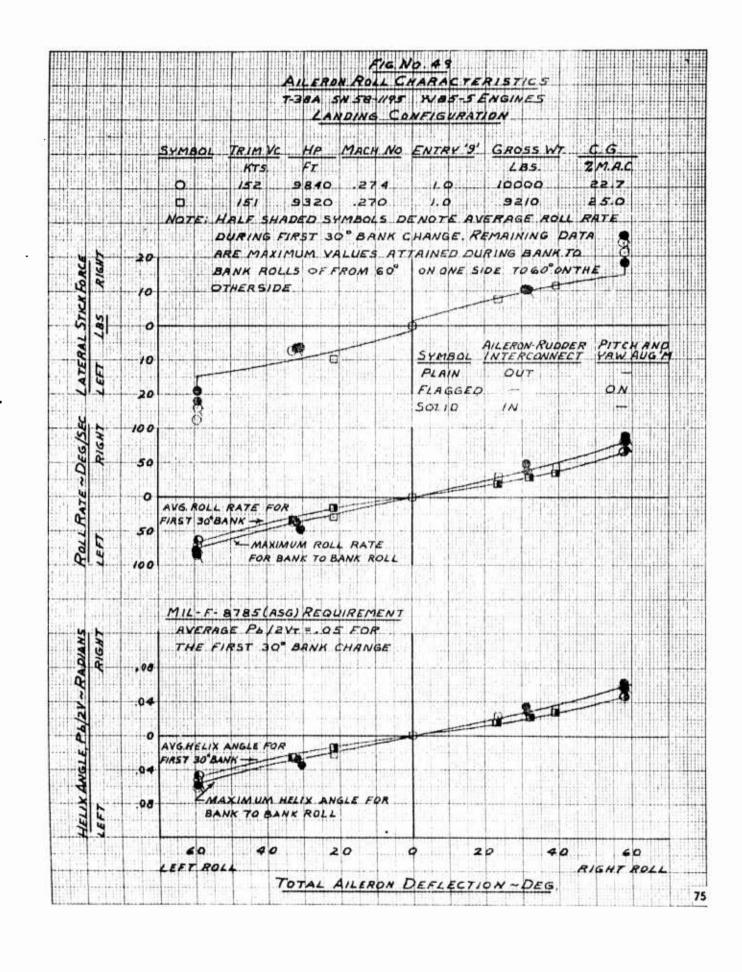


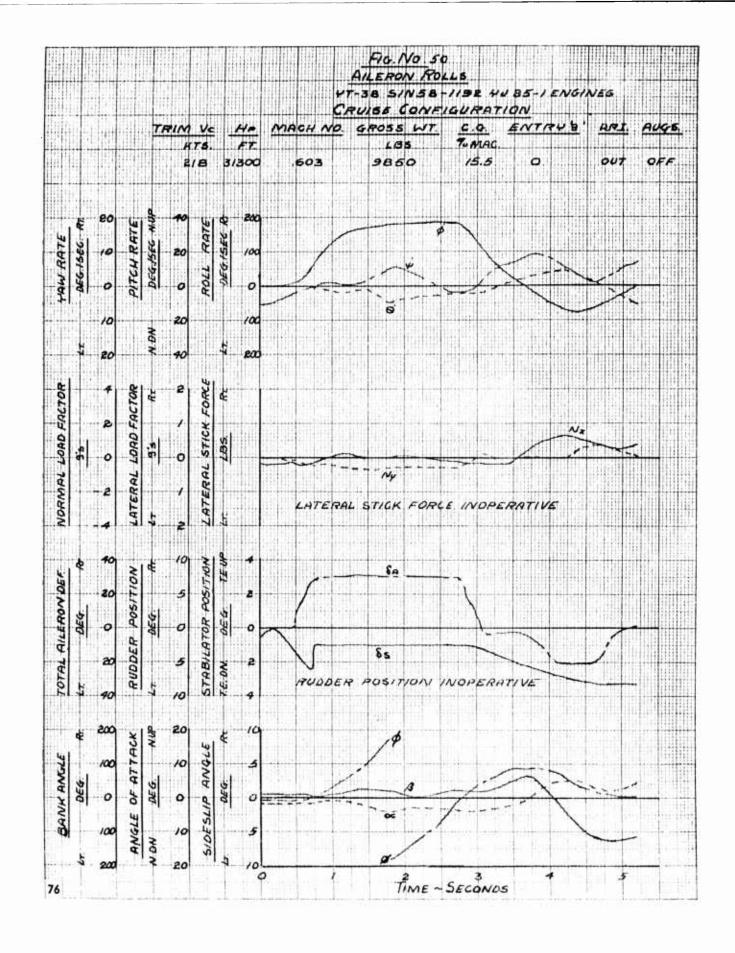


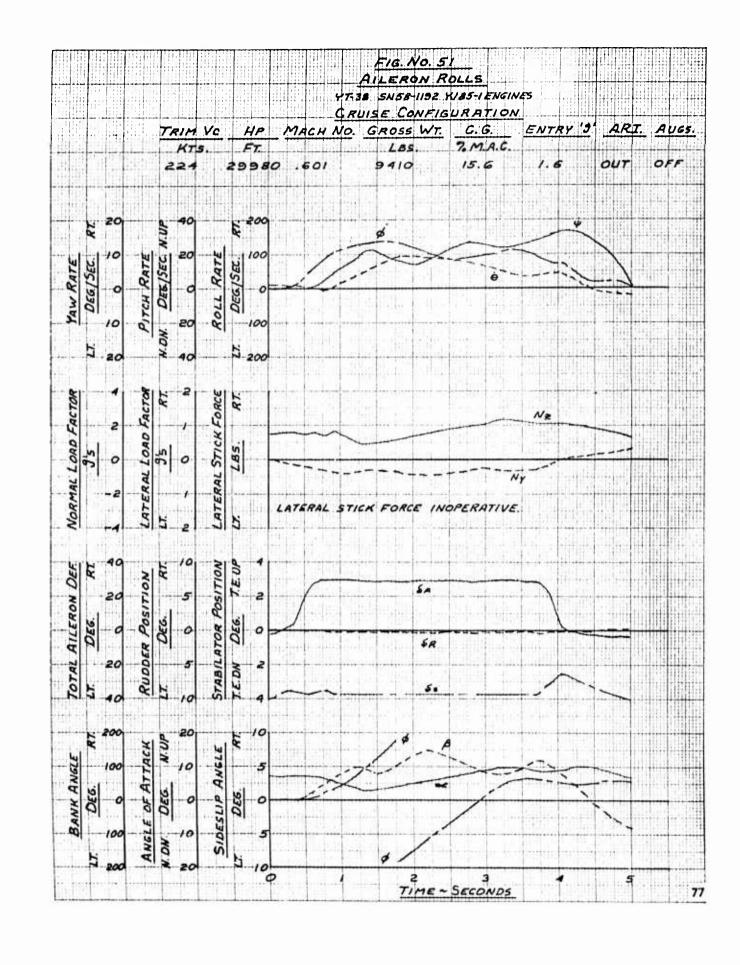


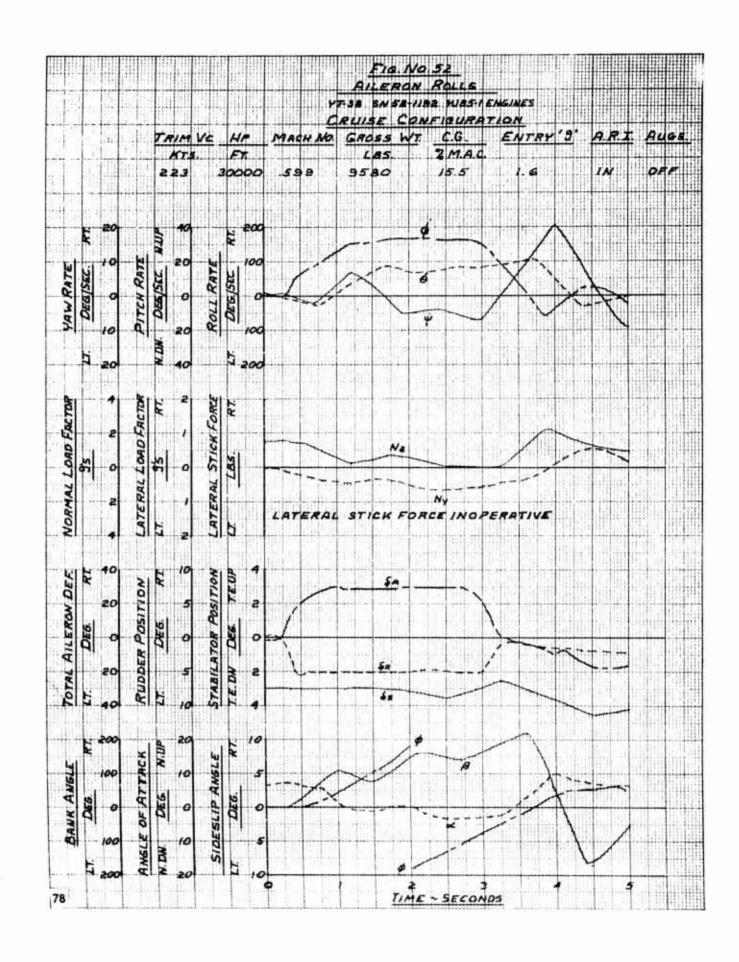


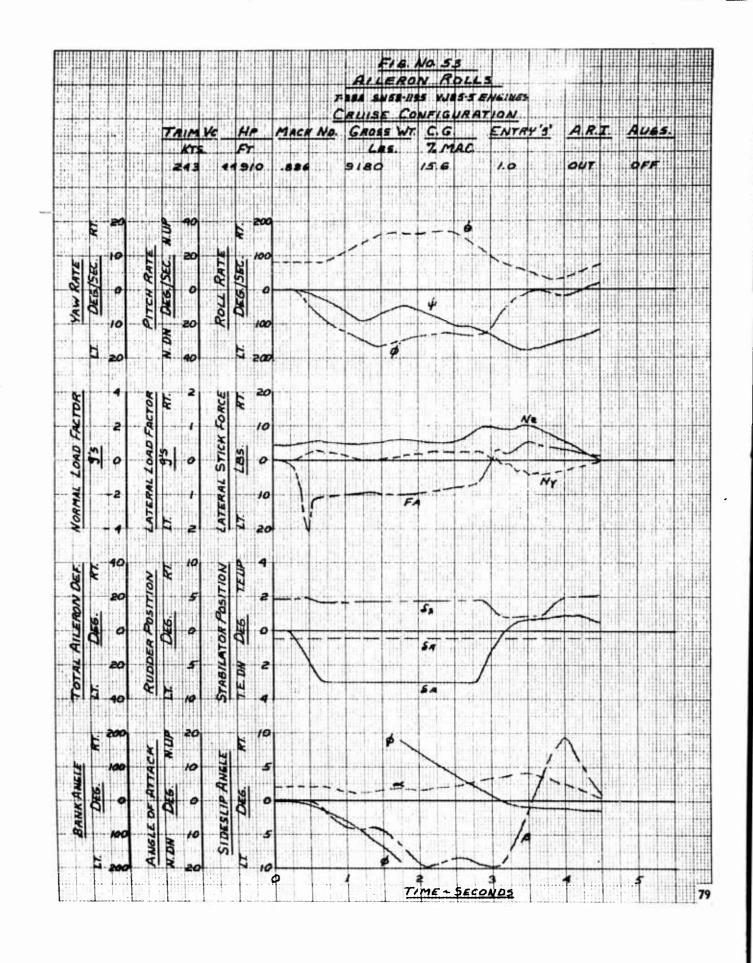


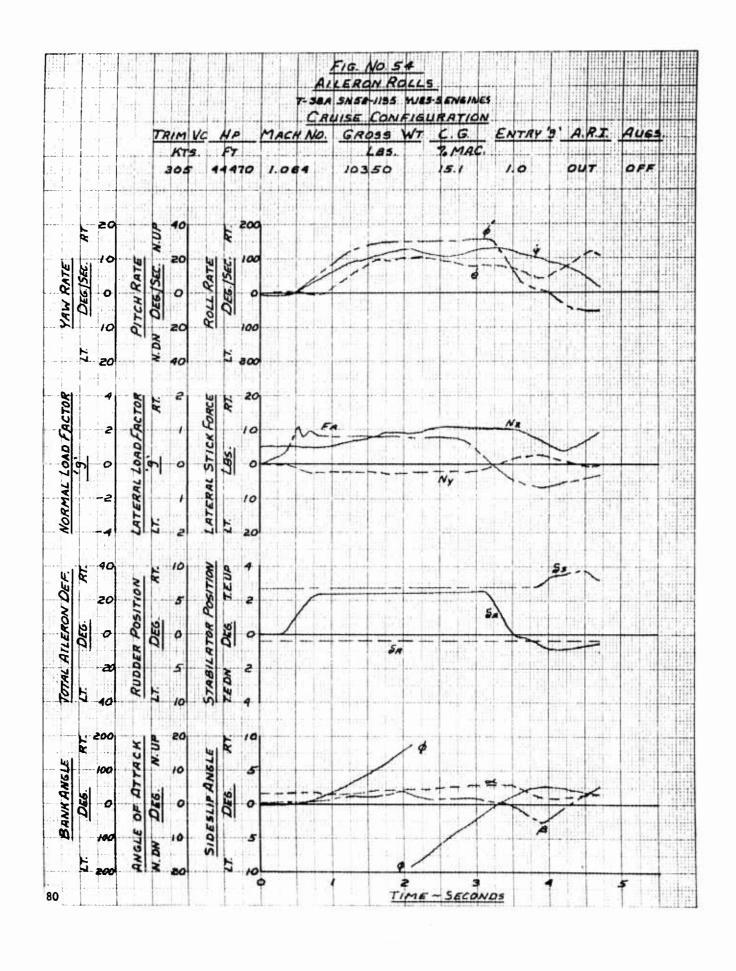


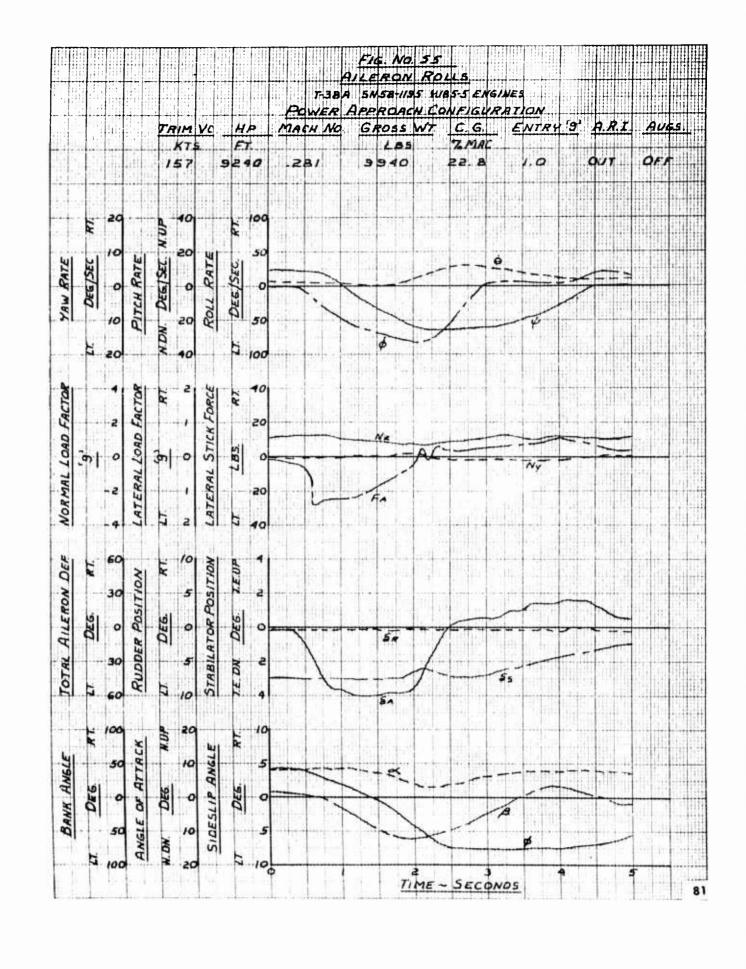


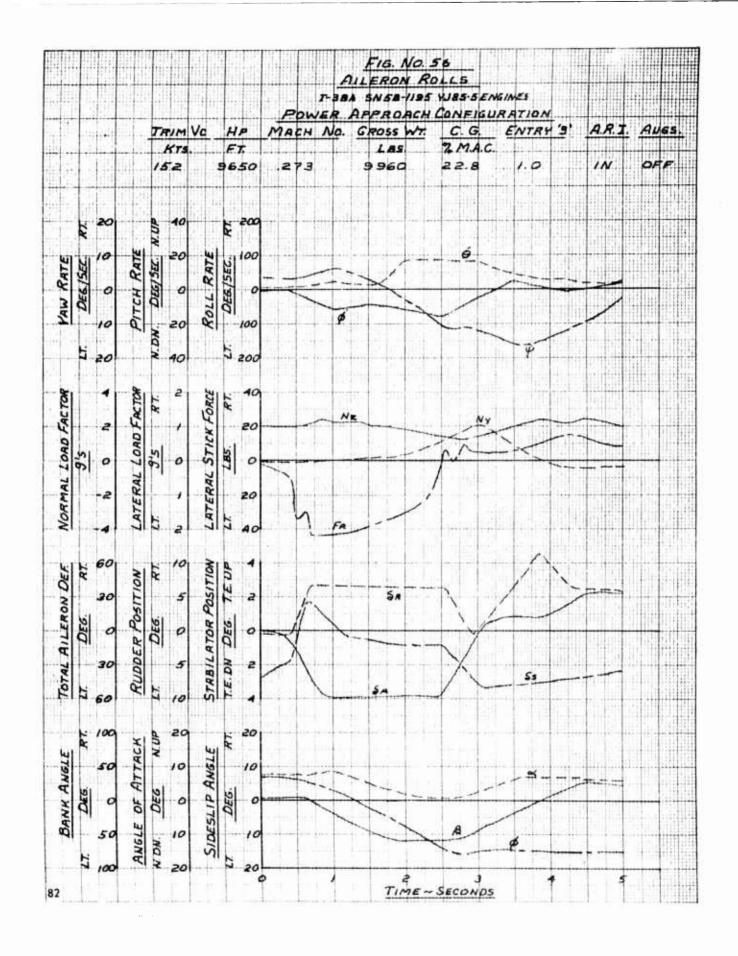


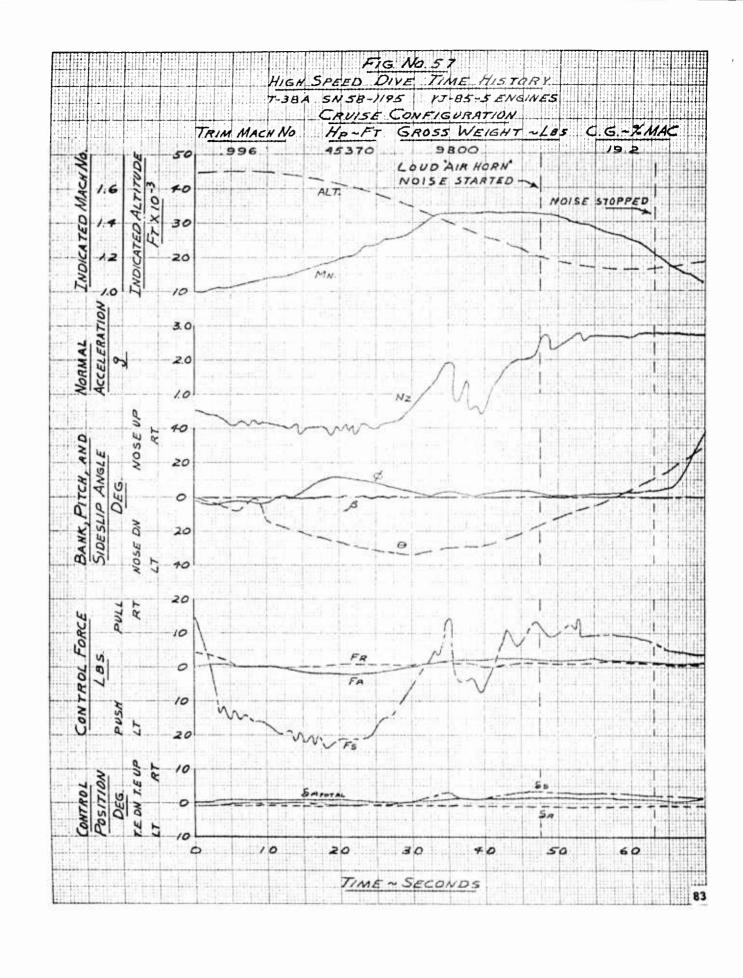


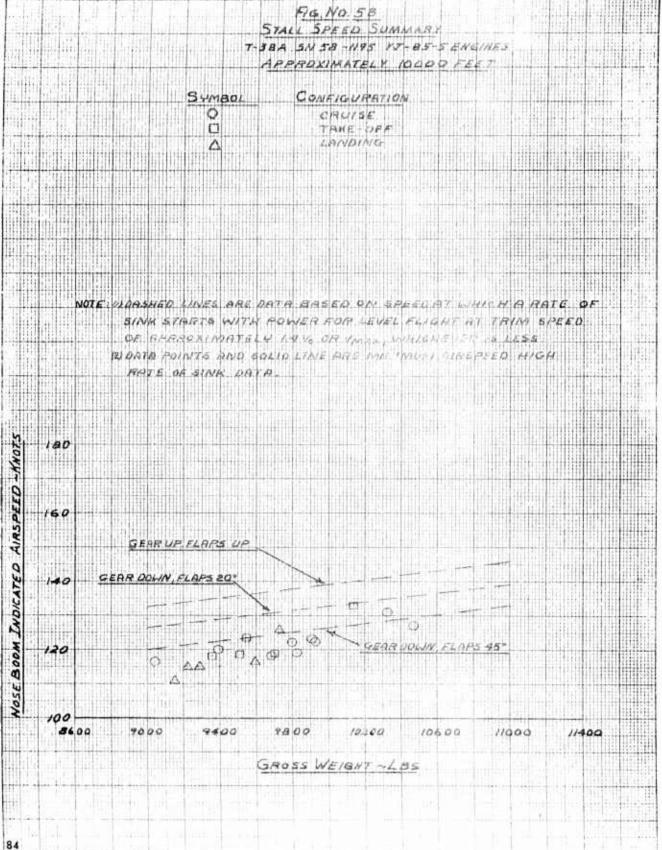


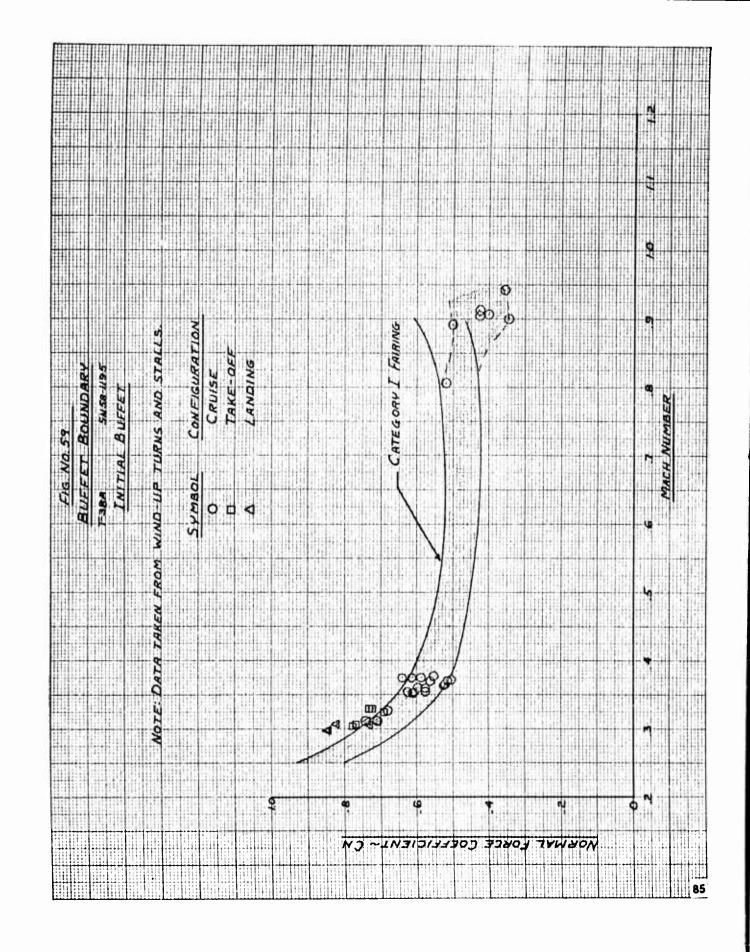


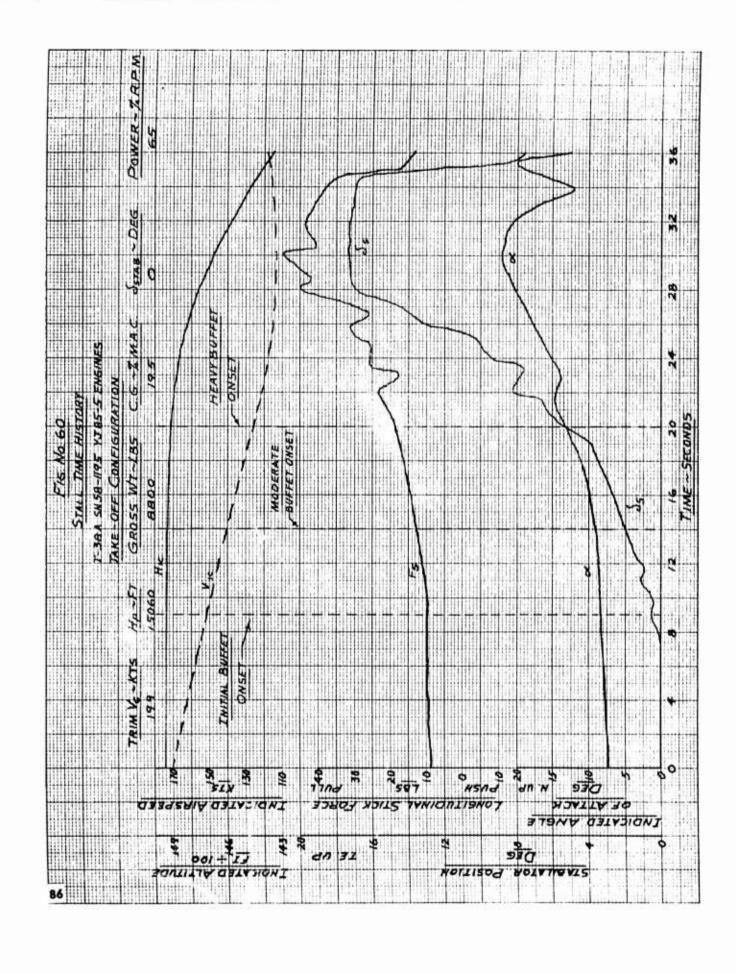


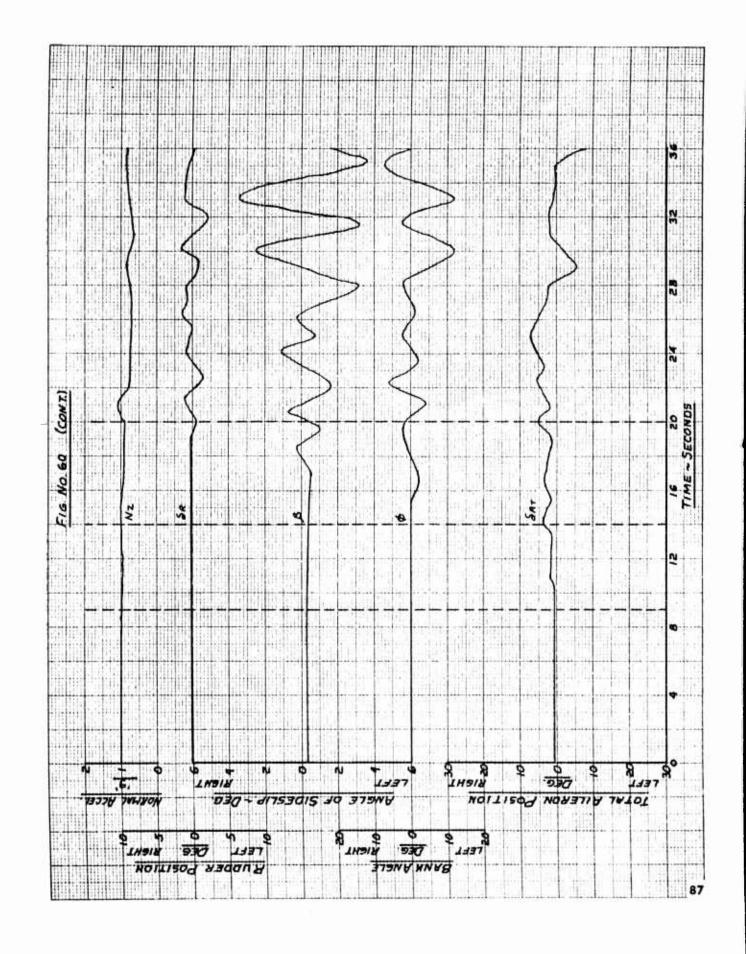


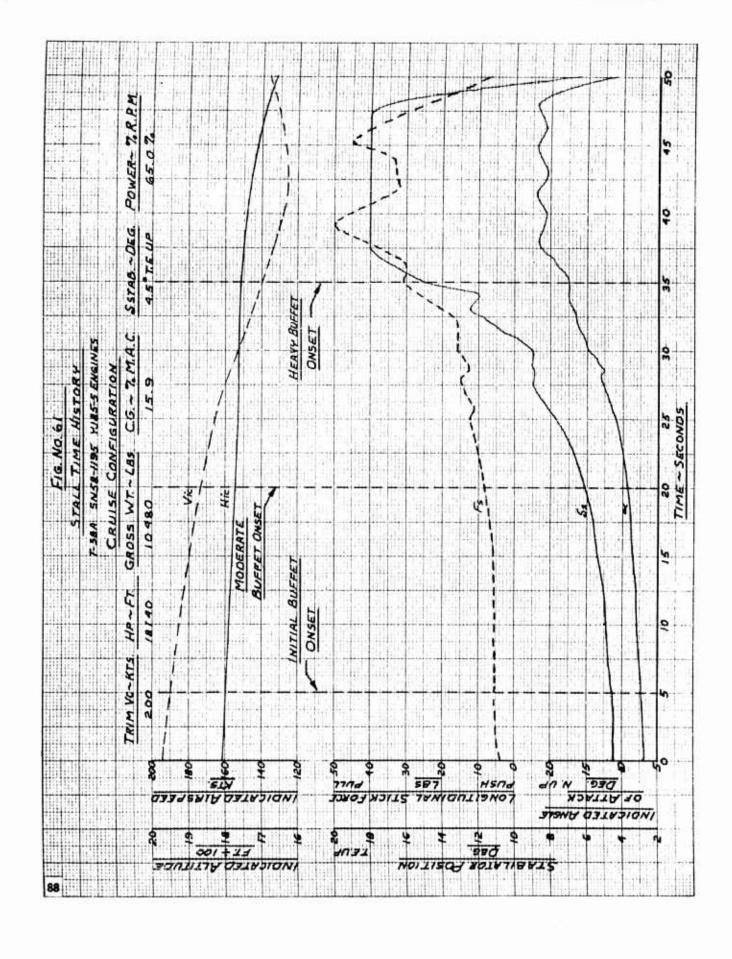


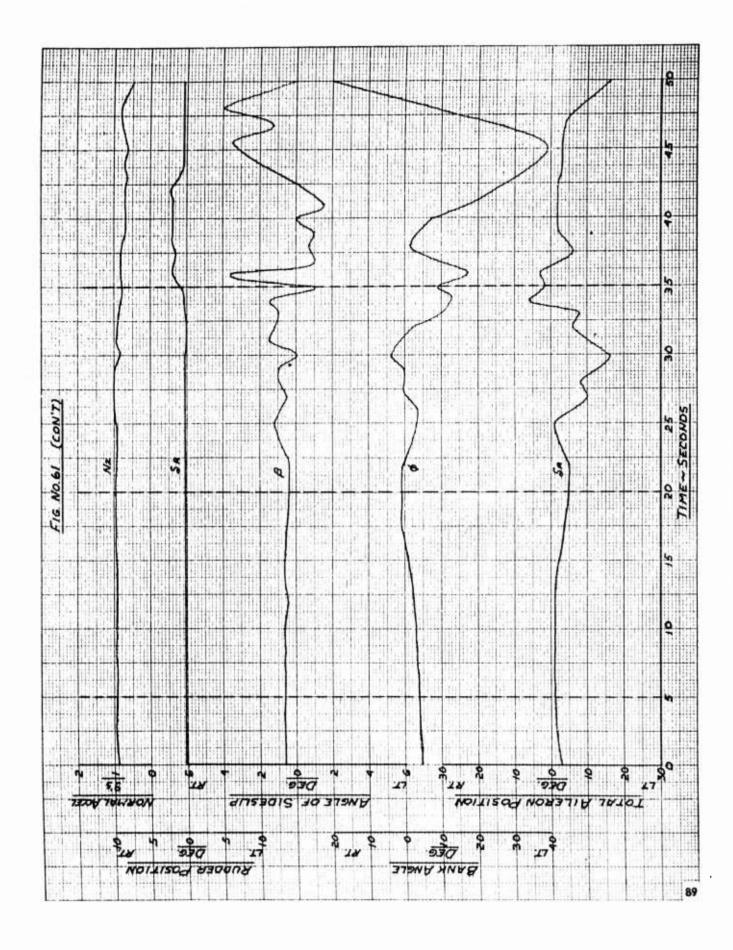


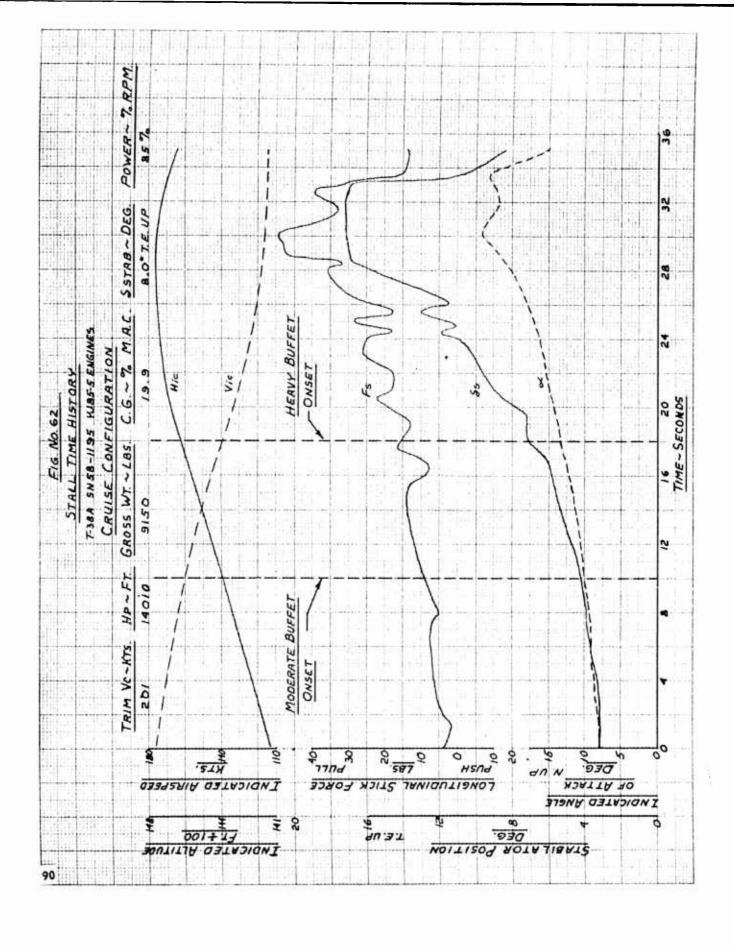


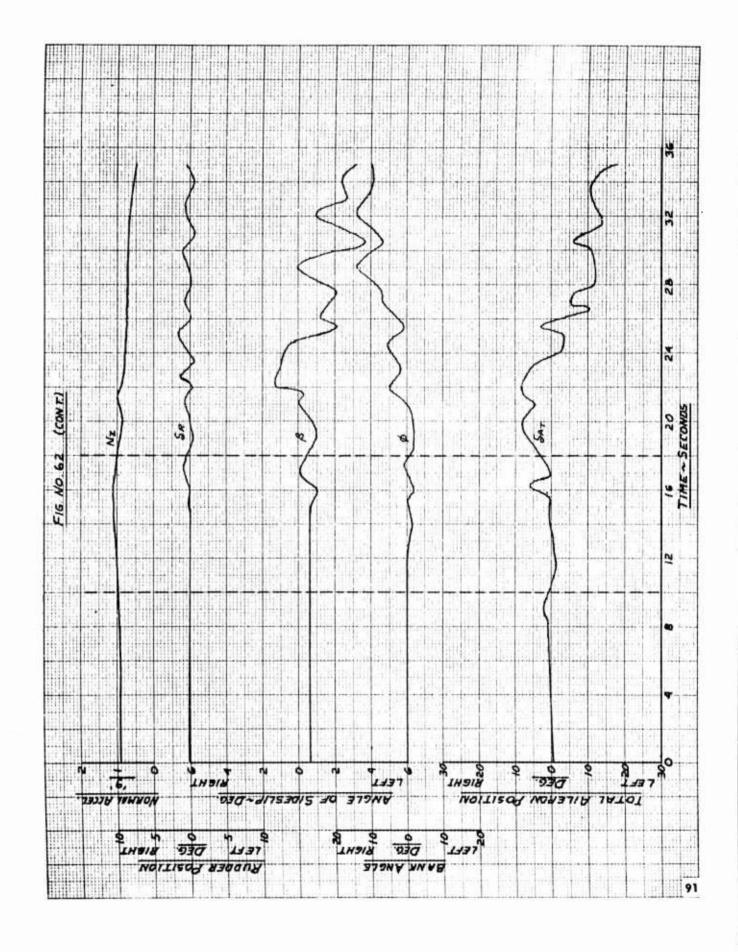


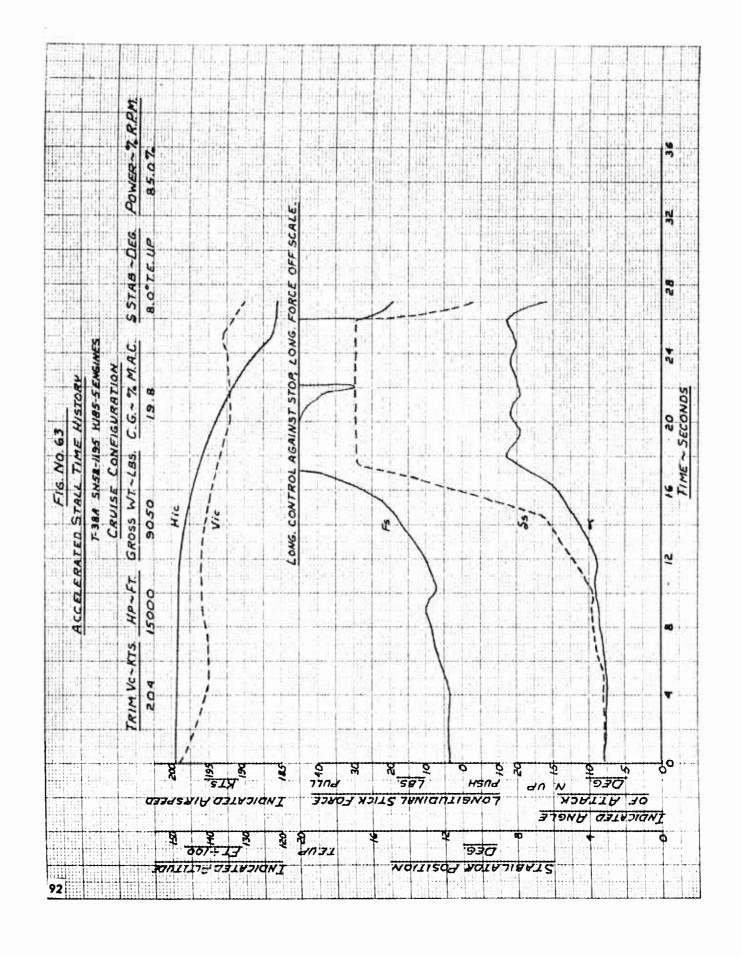


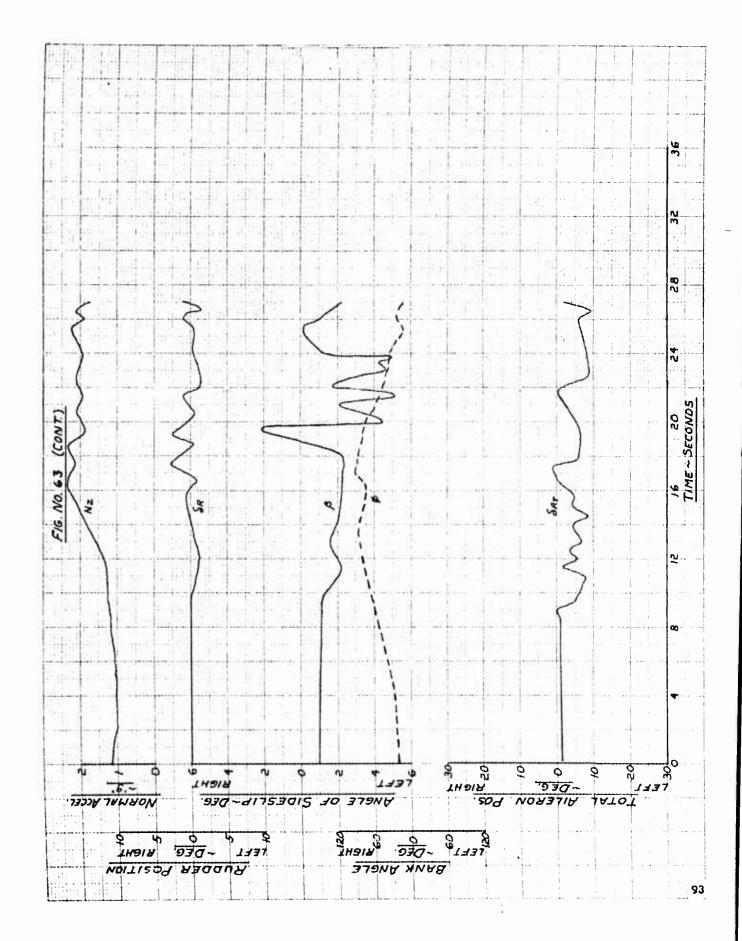


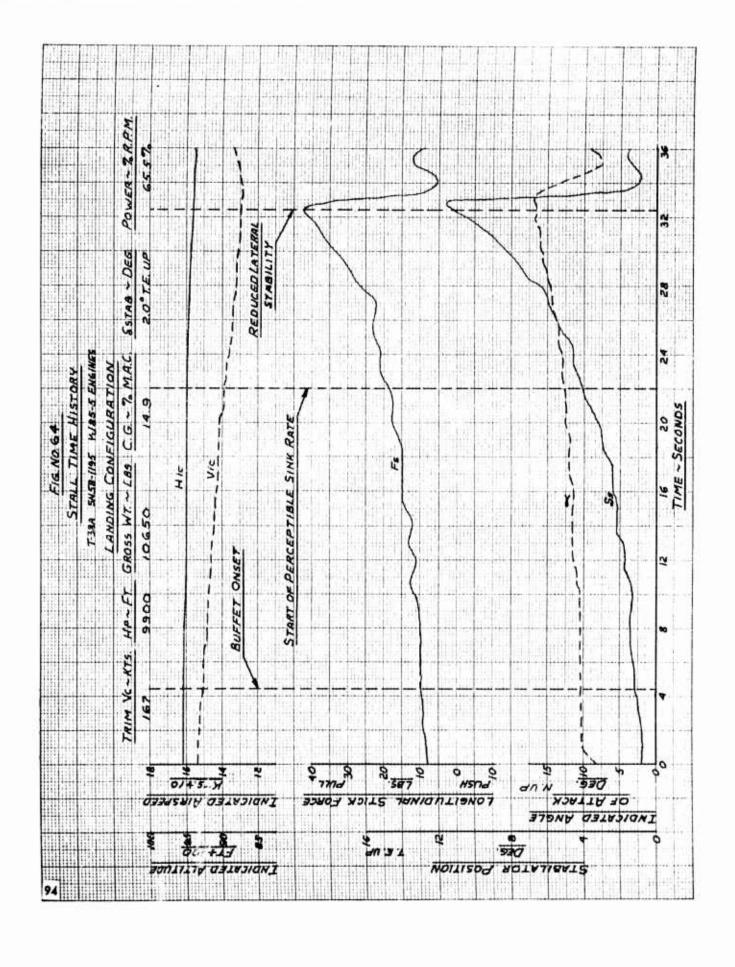


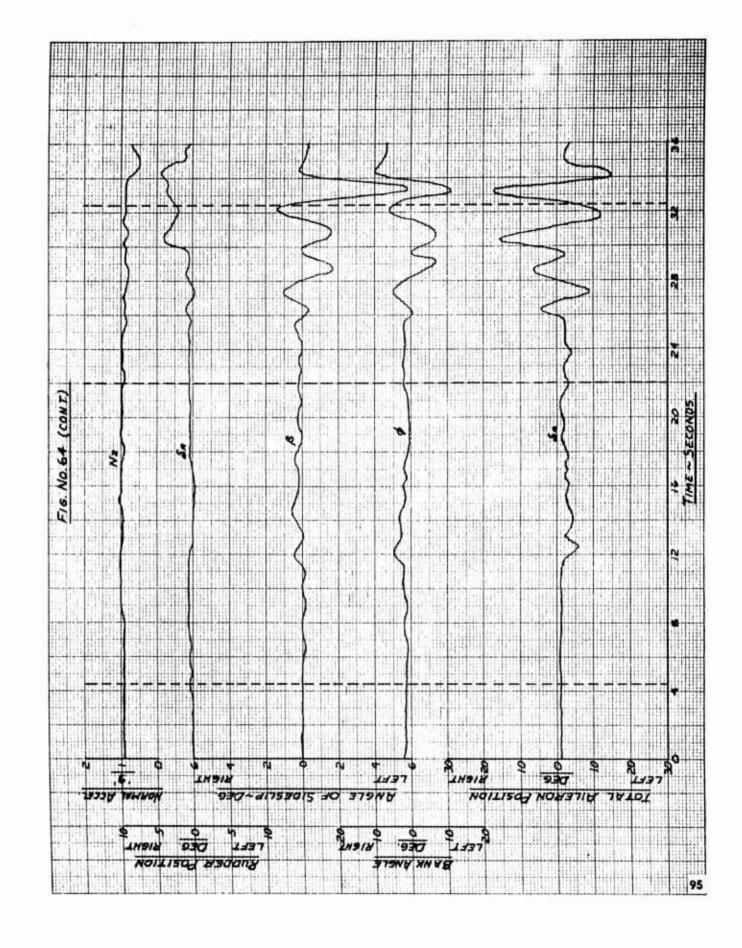


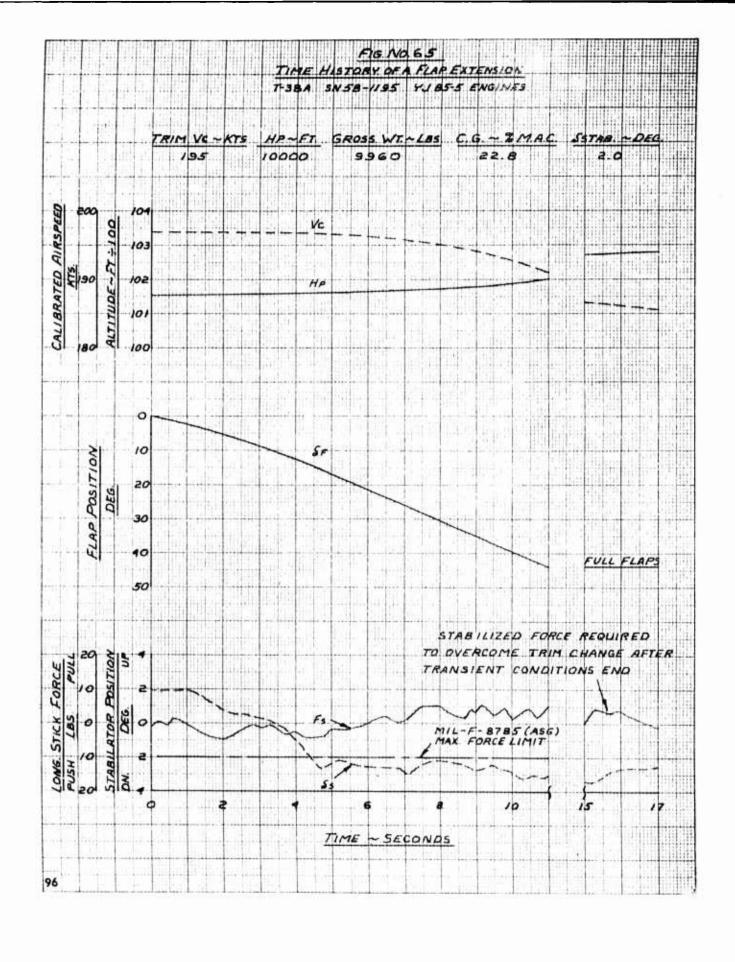


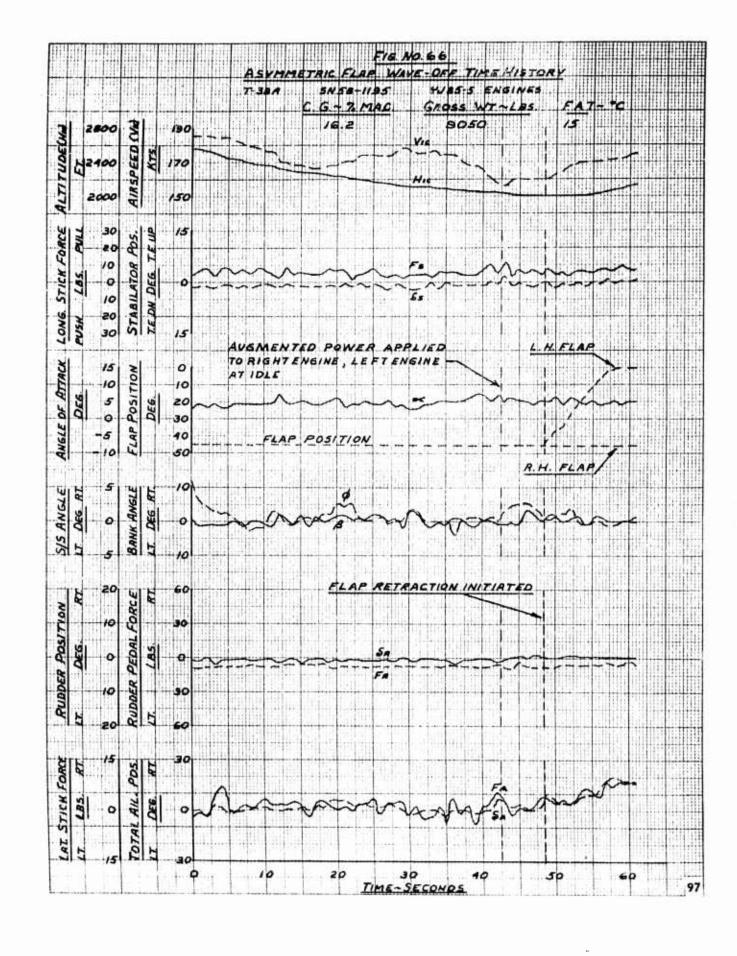


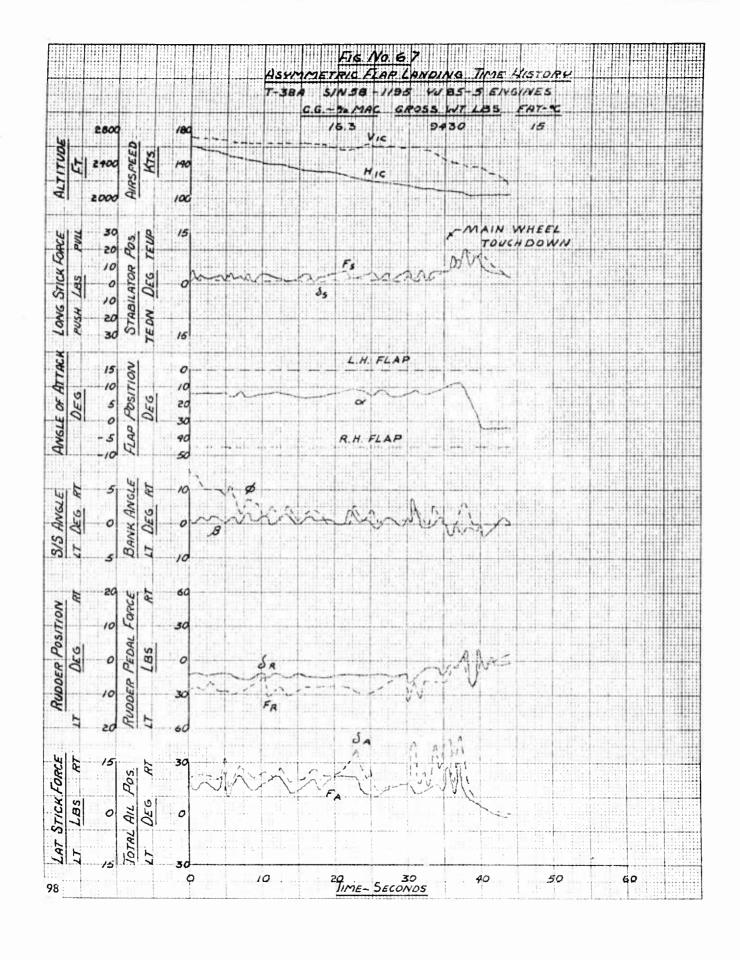


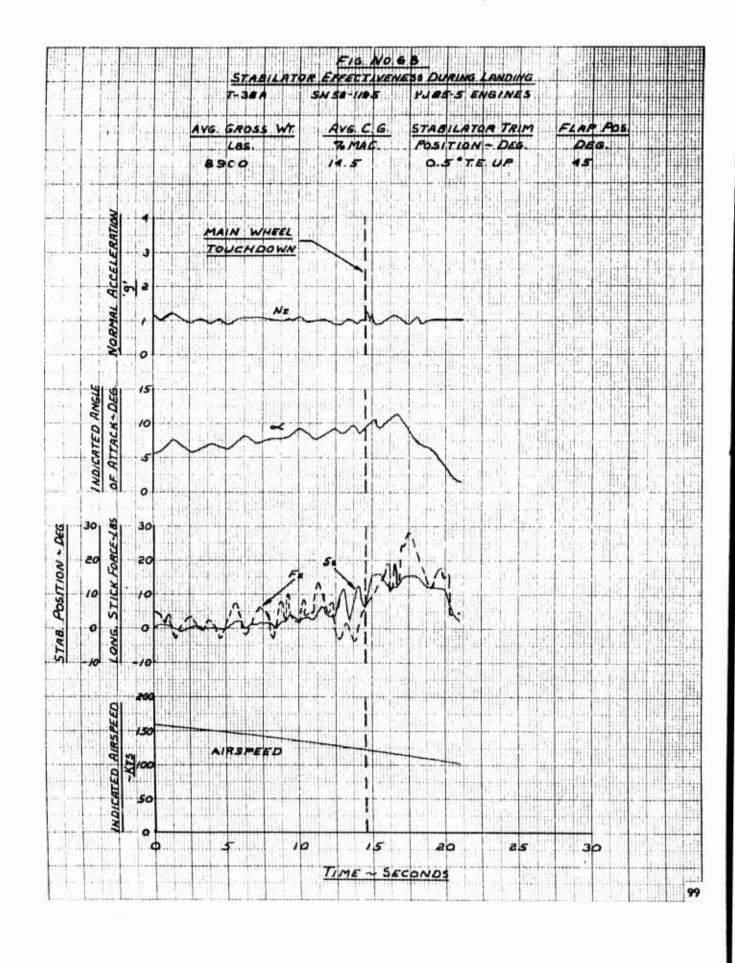


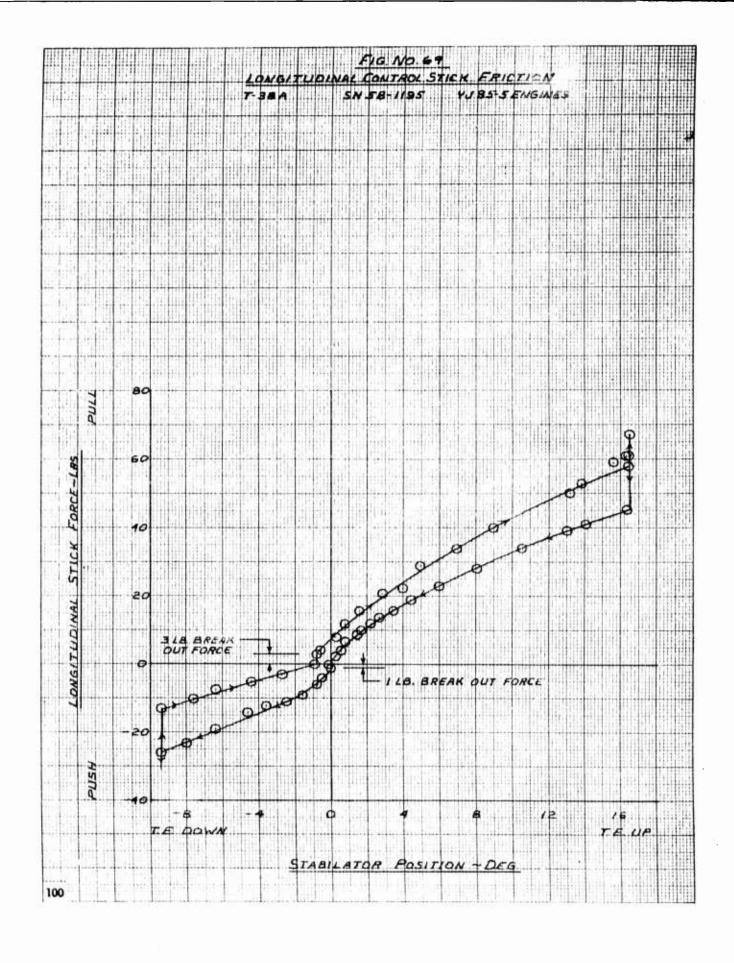


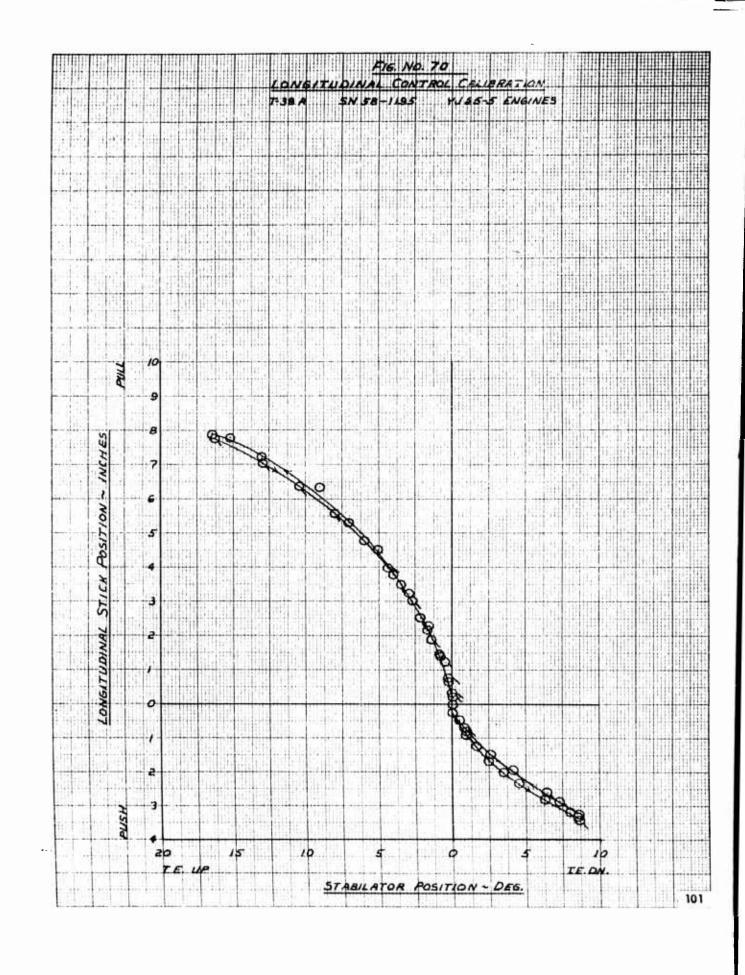


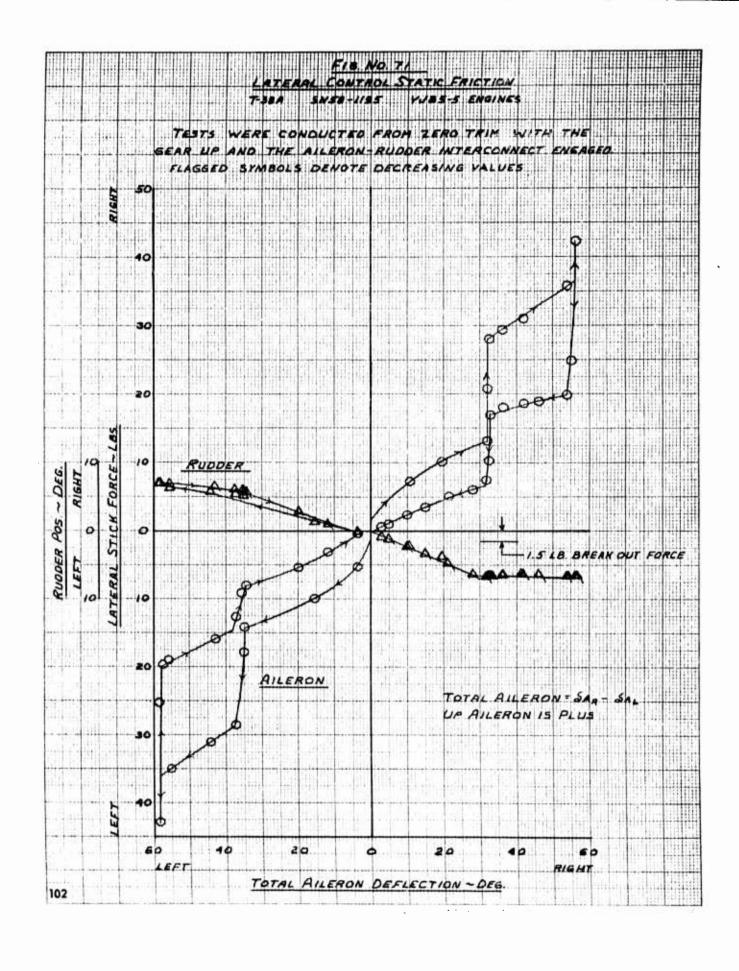


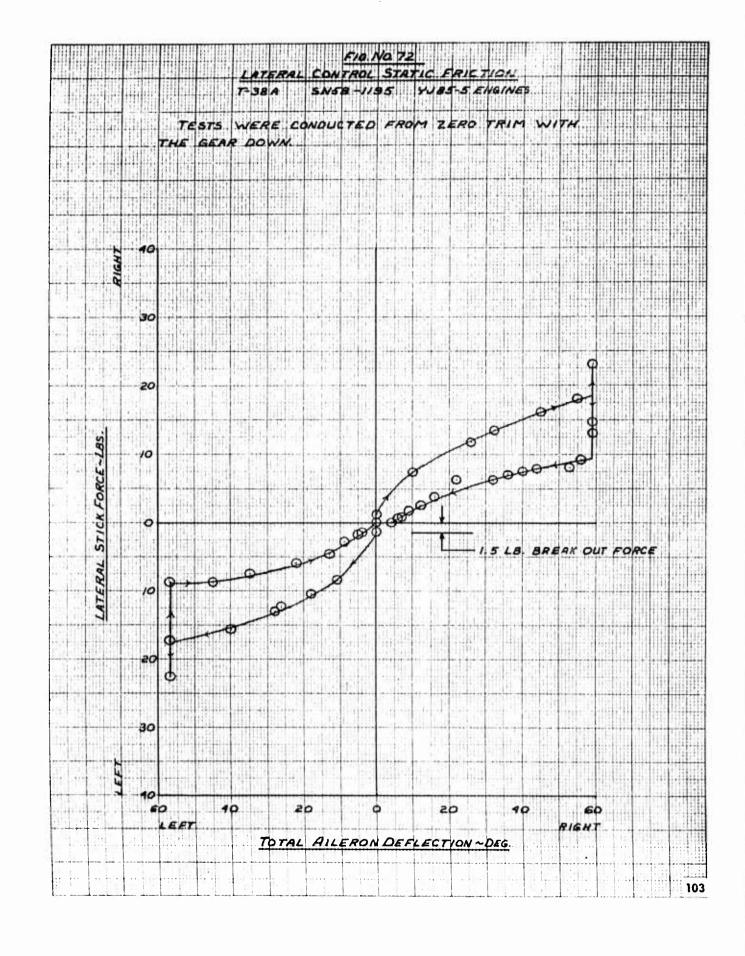


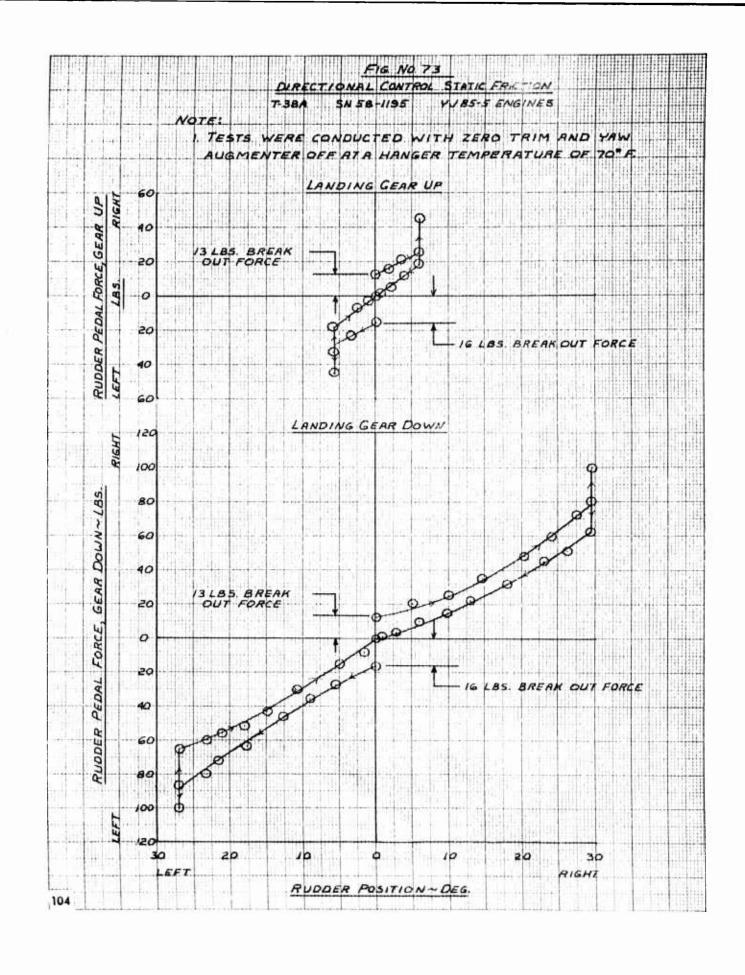




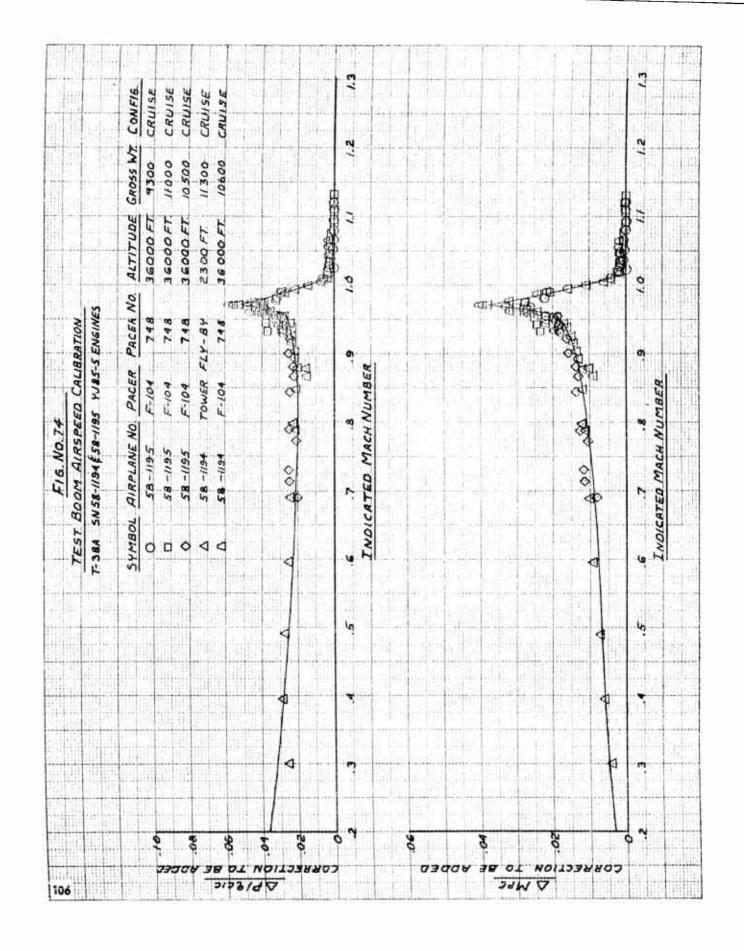






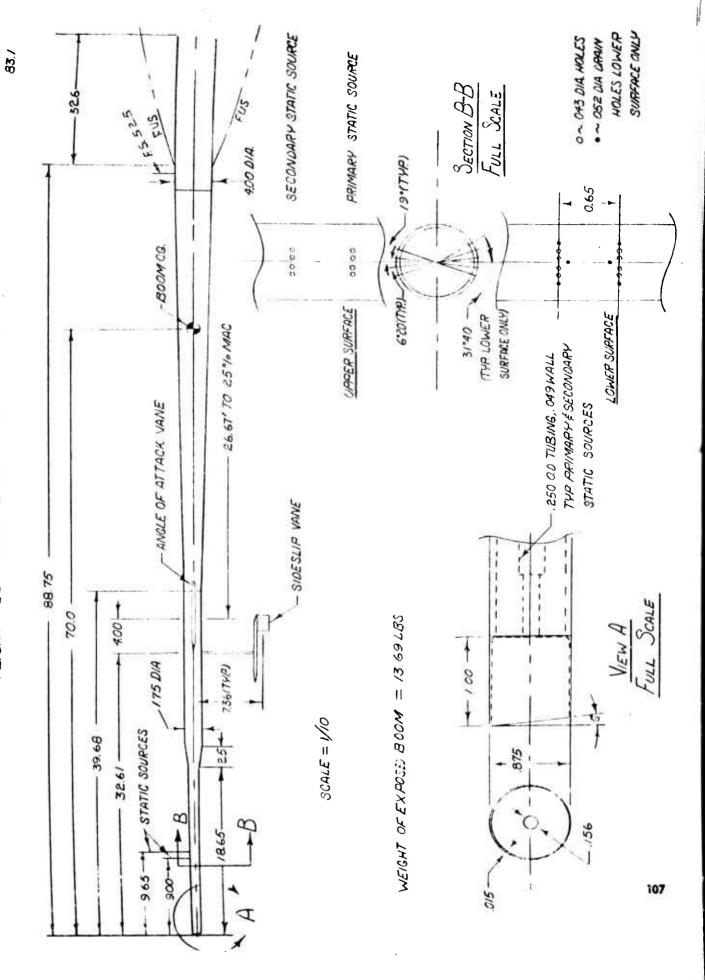


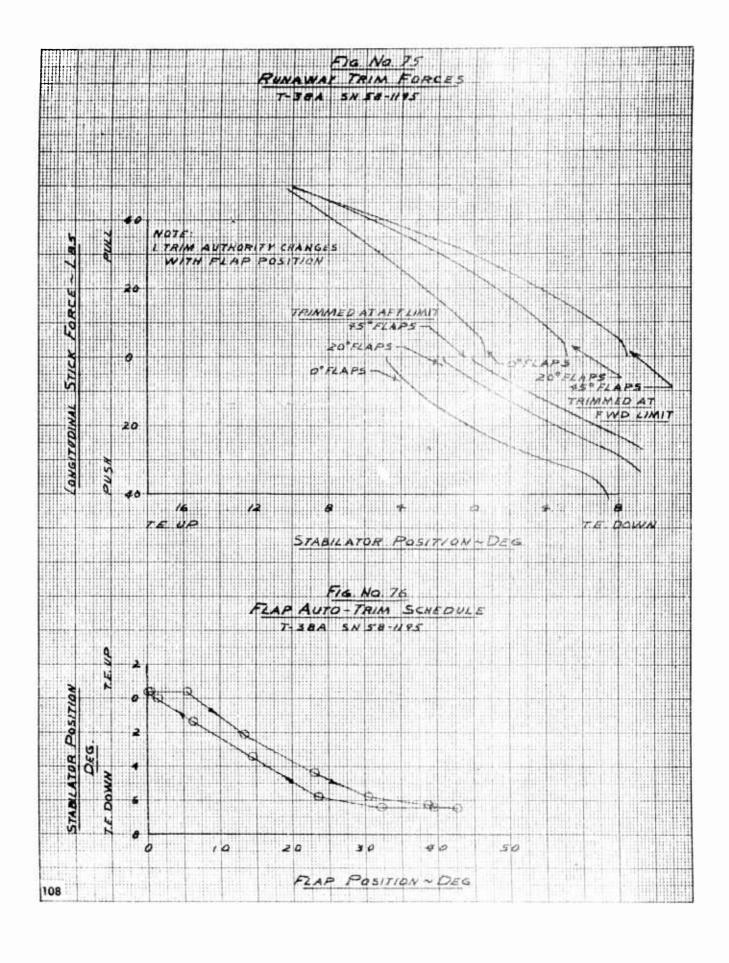
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FIGHT TEST NOSE BOOM INSTALLATION

FS.





## general aircraft information

#### DIMENSION AND DESIGN DATA

#### Wing:

170.00 ft<sup>2</sup> Area, total . 20 Taper ratio 3.75 Aspect ratio Span/thickness 51.1 Airfoil NACA 65A004.8

Modified (.65) 50 camber 25.25 ft

Span

## Horizontal Tail:

Area, total Area, exposed

Taper ratio, exposed Aspect ratio, exposed

Span/thickness, exposed

Airfoil

59.00 ft<sup>2</sup>
33.34 ft<sup>2</sup>

. 33 2.82

58.6 NACA 65A004

### Vertical Tail:

41.42 ft<sup>2</sup> Area, total 41.07 ft<sup>2</sup> Area, exposed Taper ratio, exposed . 25 Aspect ratio, exposed 1.21 Span/thickness 42.2 Airfoil

NACA 65A004 Modified

FLIGHT AND OPERATION LIMITATIONS (as of 26 January 1961)

### Airspeed Limitations:

Cruise configuration with speed brake extended or 700 KIAS

retracted

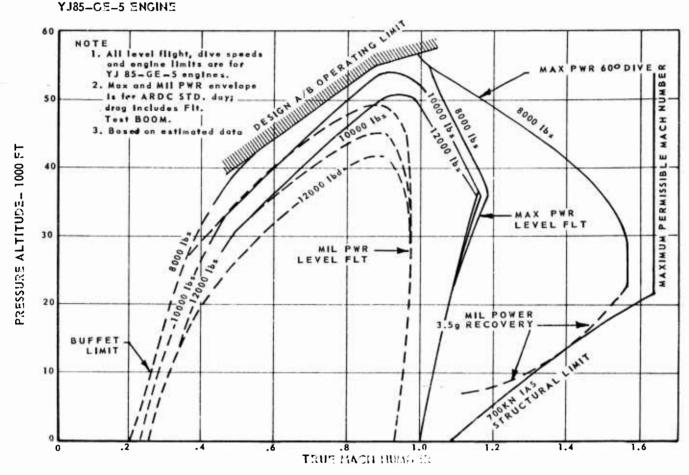
Flaps 0 to 45 percent extended 300 KIAS

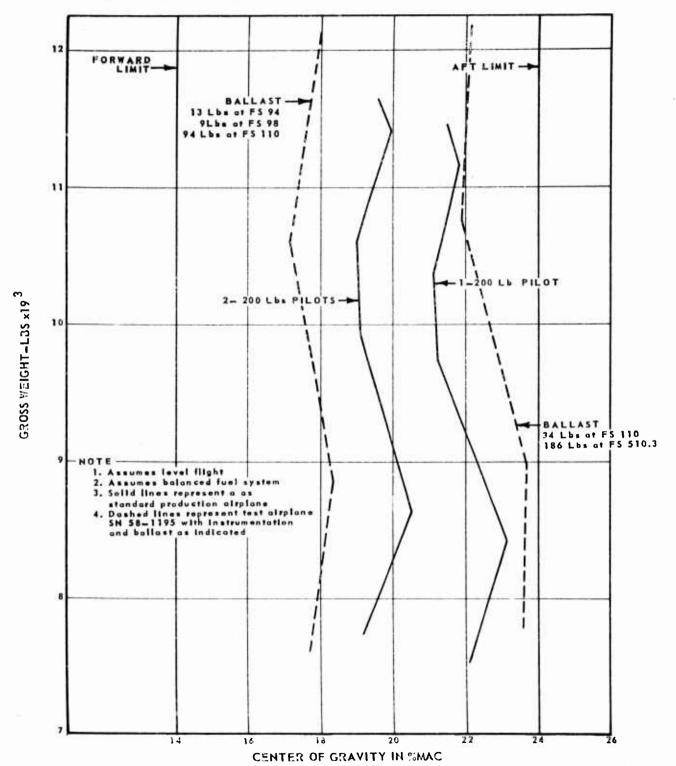
Flaps 46 to 100 percent

extended **220 KIAS** 

**240 KIAS** Landing gear extension

### T-38 FLIGHT ENVELOPE YJ85-GE-5 ENGINE





## general aircraft information

#### **DIMENSION AND DESIGN DATA**

## Wing:

Area, total Taper ratio Aspect ratio Span/thickness Airfoil

Span

170.00 ft<sup>2</sup>

. 20 3.75 51.1

NACA 65A004, 8 Modified (.65)

50 camber 25. 25 ft

## FLIGHT AND OPERATION

Vertical Tail:

Area, exposed

Span/thickness

Area, total

Airfoil

LIMITATIONS (as of 26 January 1961)

## Airspeed Limitations:

Taper ratio, exposed

Aspect ratio, exposed

Cruise configuration with

speed brake extended or 700 KIAS retracted

41.42 ft<sup>2</sup>

41.07 ft<sup>2</sup>

Modified

300 KIAS

**NACA 65A004** 

. 25

1.21

42.2

Flaps 0 to 45 percent

extended

Flaps 46 to 100 percent

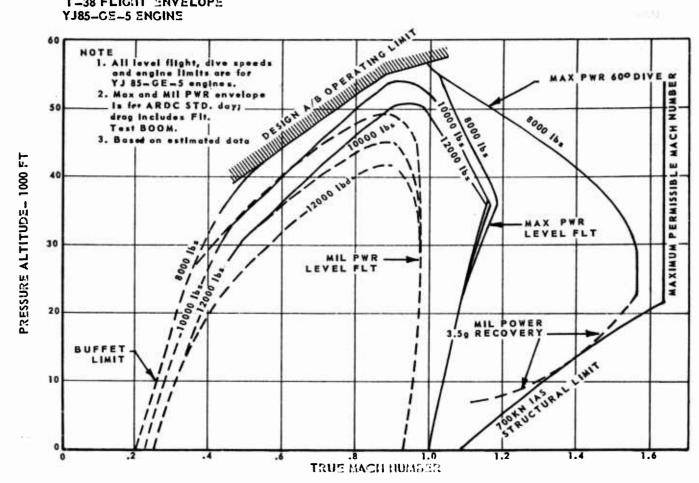
220 KIAS extended

Landing gear extension 240 KIAS

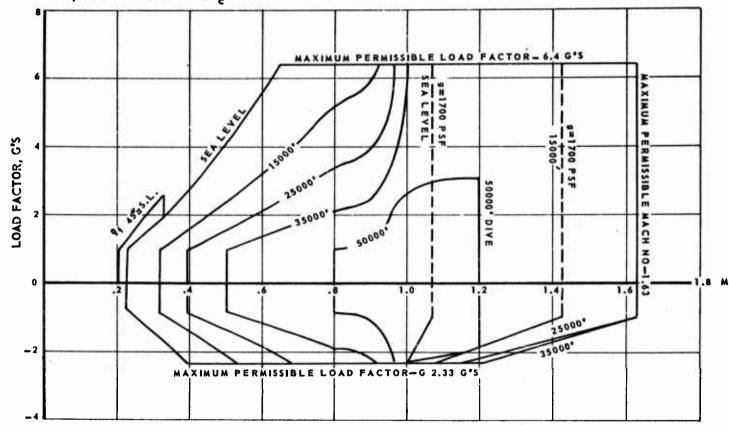
## Horizontal Tail:

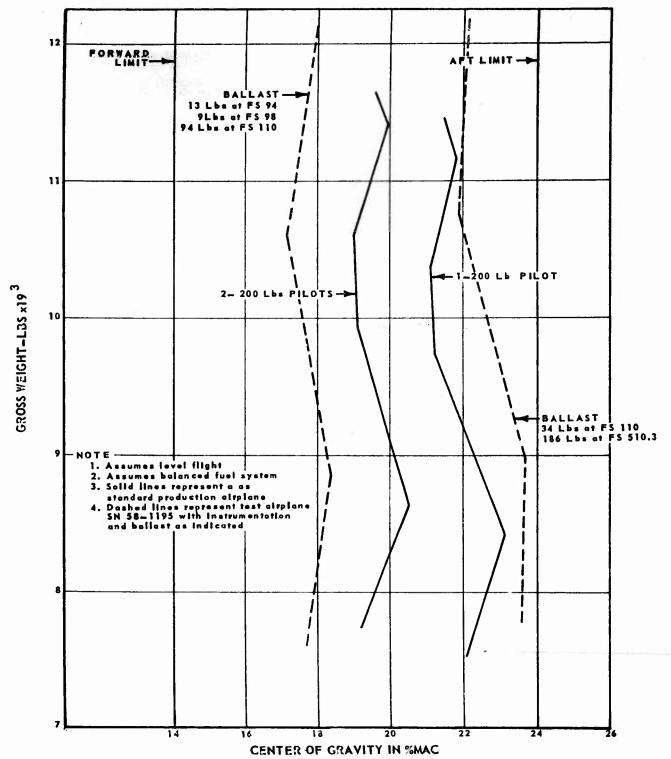
59.00 ft<sup>2</sup>
33.34 ft<sup>2</sup> Area, total Area, exposed Taper ratio, exposed . 33 Aspect ratio, exposed 2.82 Span/thickness, exposed 58.6 Airfoil NACA 65A004

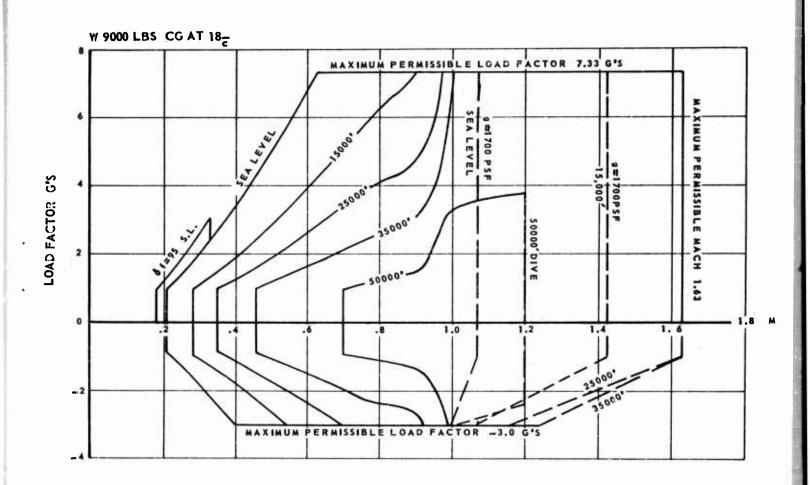
## T-38 FLIGHT ENVELOPE YJ85-CE-5 ENGINE

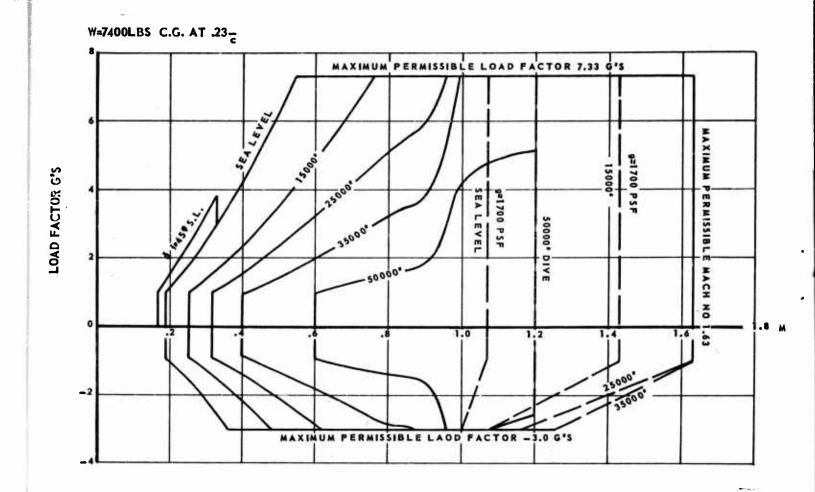


OPERATIONAL FLIGHT ENVELOPE FULL FUEL LOADING W=11,000 LBS C.G. AT .20<sub>C</sub>









## Prohibited Maneuvers:

Until the fuel system venting capability tests are complete, do not exceed:

1.5 indicated Mach number at dive angles of 0 to 50 degrees

A 50 degree dive angle for more than 5 seconds

Rolls continued past the 360 degree point.

Flight at negative load factors exceeding 10 seconds at 10,000 feet and

30 seconds at 30,000 feet (fuel starvation may occur).

Maximum speed dives with less than 650 pounds of fuel in each system (fuel starvation may occur).

Spins

## The Limit Load Factor is Calculated as Follows:

 $\eta_1 = 7.33 \times \frac{9600}{\text{weight}}$ 

### Aileron Travel Limits:

	deg	in
Full up travel (gear down)	35 ±2	10.44 ±0.58
Full down travel (gear down)	25 ±0.5	7.51 ±.15
Full up travel (gear up)	18.5 ±2	5.58 ±.60
Full down travel (gear up)	14 ±2	4.23 ±.60
Stabilator Travel Limits:		
Full down (trailing edge)	8 + 1/-0	
Full up (trailing edge)	17 + 1/-0	
Rudder Travel Limits:		
Left and right (gear down)	30 ±1.0	14.43 ±.45
Left and right (gear up)	6 ±.5	3.02 ±.25
Trim take-off = 0 +. 4 degrees		

Stabilator Trim Authority:		m === /// =====
	Design - deg	Test (Aircraft S/N 58-1195-deg
0 degree flaps	<del></del>	
trailing edge down	0	5
trailing edge up	5	_ 5
Aileron Trim Authority:		
	Design - deg	Test(Aircraft S/N 58-1195-deg
Right	6	6
Left	6	5
Rudder Trim Authority:		
Right	2	1.6
Left	2	2.6

	Engine Standar	Ratings - Unit d Day, Static	nstalled, Sea Level:			
	Engine	Maximum-lb	Military-lb	RPM	EGT-°C	
	YJ85-1		2180	16,500	635	
95.	YJ85-5	3600	2450	16,500	1155	
	J85-5	3850	2500	16,500	1265	
		40			100	

### HYDRAULIC SYSTEM

The airplane incorporates two separate hydraulic systems. The flight control and utility systems are powered from a gear box on the right and left engine respectively. Both contain a separate reservoir which is pressurized by engine bleed air to prevent foaming or pump starvation. Both systems produce 3000 psi.

The flight control system powers the control surfaces and is outlined elsewhere in this report. The utility system assists the flight control system in this respect but also actuates the speed brakes, stability augmenter, landing gear, landing gear doors and locks, and the nose wheel

steering mechanism. The gear box driving these two systems increases in ratio automatically below 68 percent engine rpm to maintain a constant pressure at low rpm. Both of these systems contain separate pressure indicators and warning devices in each cockpit.

### FLIGHT CONTROL SYSTEM

The "all movable" horizontal tail, ailerons and rudder are actuated by a full powered control system. The pilot controls hydraulic servo-valves which in turn control hydraulic actuators. The airloads on the control surfaces are not transmitted to the pilot. Artificial feel,

### Prohibited Maneuvers:

Until the fuel system venting capability tests are complete, do not exceed:

1.5 indicated Mach number at dive angles of 0 to 50 degrees

A 50 degree dive angle for more than 5 seconds

Rolls continued past the 360 degree point.

Flight at negative load factors exceeding 10 seconds at 10,000 feet and

30 seconds at 30,000 feet (fuel starvation may occur).

Maximum speed dives with less than 650 pounds of fuel in each system (fuel starvation may occur).

Spins

## The Limit Load Factor is Calculated as Follows:

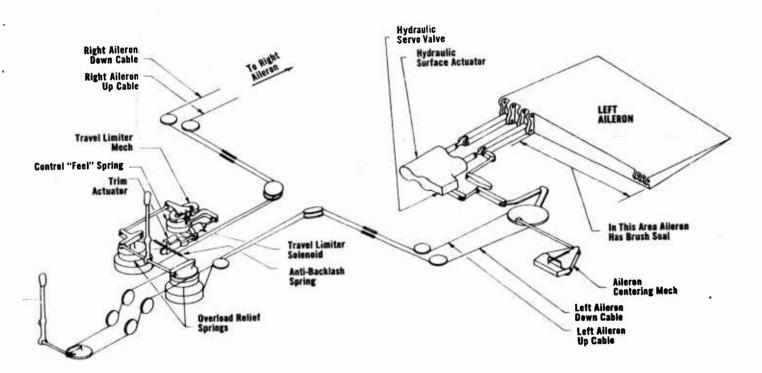
$$\eta_1 = 7.33 \times \frac{9600}{\text{weight}}$$

### Aileron Travel Limits:

		deg	in
Full up travel (gear down)		35 <u>+</u> 2	10.44 ±0.58
Full down travel (gear down)		25 ±0.5	7.51 ±.15
Full up travel (gear up)		18.5 <u>+</u> 2	5.58 +.60
Full down travel (gear up)		14 <u>+</u> 2	4.23 ±.60
Stabilator Travel Limits:			
Full down (trailing edge)		8 + 1/-0	
Full up (trailing edge)		17 + 1/-0	
Rudder Travel Limits:			
Left and right (gear down)		30 ±1.0	14.43 ±.45
Left and right (gear up)	499).	6 ± . 5	3.02 ±.25
Trim take-off = 0 ±.4 degrees		J	

consisting of springs in the aileron and rudder system and a spring and bobweight in the horizontal tail system, is included in the design.

The airplane has two separate and independent hydraulic systems. Each system is powered by a variable output pump. The primary hydraulic system is powered by a pump mounted on the remote gear box and driven by a shaft from the right hand engine. This system powers the primary flight controls only. The utility hydraulic system is powered by a pump on the left remote gear box. The utility hydraulic system powers the primary flight controls and in addition the speed brakes, landing gear, gear doors, nose wheel steering and the stability augmenter system.

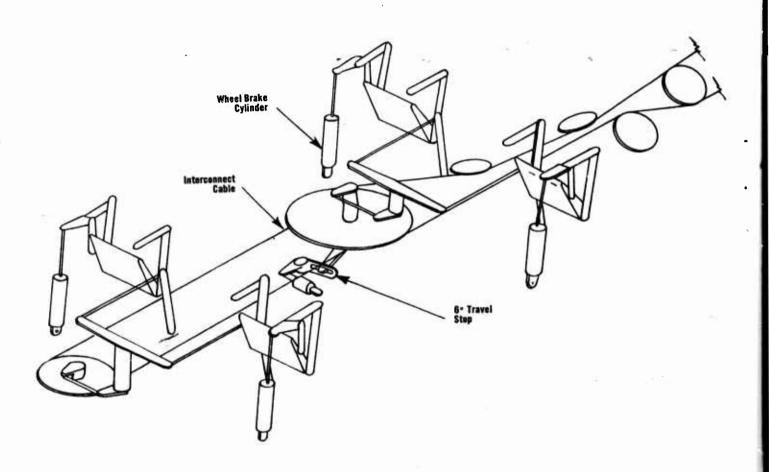


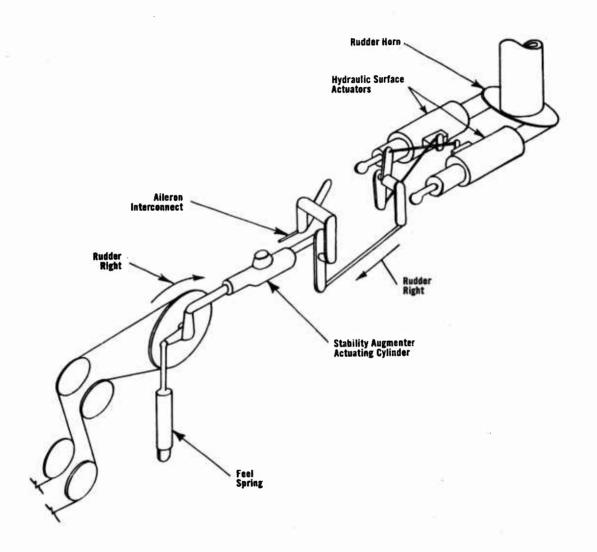
## AILERON CONTROL SYSTEM SCHEMATIC

(Reference NAI 58-703)

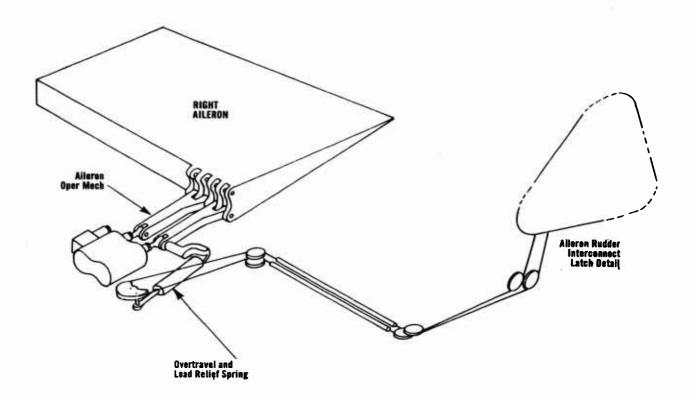
## RUDDER CONTROL SYSTEM SCHEMATIC

(Reference NAI 58-703)

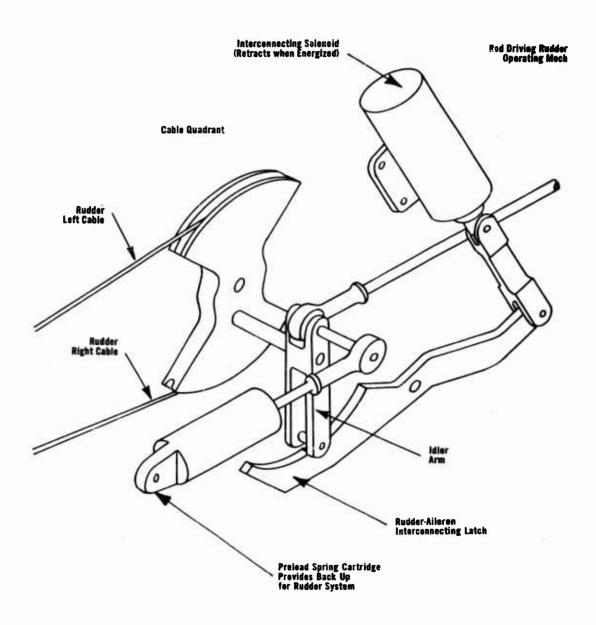




## AILERON-RUDDER INTERCONNECT SYSTEM



## AILERON-RUDDER INTERCONNECT LATCH DETAIL



The primary flight controls are driven by two hydraulic actuators each powered by one of the hydraulic systems. A failure of either hydraulic system will result in the loss of one half the available hinge moment and, in the case of the aileron and rudder, the preload used to minimize free motion. For the horizontal tail, all the preload will be retained in case of failure of either hydraulic system since the horizontal tail is driven by two tandem actuators preloaded against each other.

In the event of flame out on both engines, windmilling rpm will supply sufficient power for the primary flight controls (at somewhat lower rates) during the descent from altitude and may be sufficient during the landing phase. Dead stick landings are not a design requirement for the airplane.

Available hinge moments for the various control surfaces are figured for 2800 psi hydraulic pressure which is a nominal value allowing for simultaneous operation of the primary controls.

The surface deflection rate is a function of the airload hinge moment. To achieve the maximum surface rates the control valves must be fully open which requires that the pilot must move the stick or rudder pedals as fast as the surfaces respond. All primary control systems have check valves such that the surfaces will not blow back until the airload hinge moment exceeds that for 3300 psi.

Aerodynamic loads on the stabilator are fully opposed by the tandem hydraulic actuators; therefore, stick forces felt by the pilot are artificially produced. The feel system consists of an electrically powered trim actuator, of the screw jack type, connected at one end to the driver of the four bar differential linkage and at the other end to a rotary mounted, spring linkage system. Safety switches located at the feel spring crank prevent adverse runaway trim by breaking the circuit to the trim actuator motor in the direction of increasing stick force; the control stick trim buttons are in the same circuit. A bobweight is mounted in the

instructor's cockpit and attaches through cranks and a push-pull rod to the control stick to supplement the spring forces in proportion to load factor. A bobweight static balance spring is mounted on the torque tube in the instructor's cockpit.

The aileron surfaces are driven by dual side by side hydraulic actuators. A schematic of the aileron system is shown on page

Lateral motion of the student's or instructor's control stick is transmitted through a cable system to each aileron operating quadrant. The stick and quadrant motion open servo-valves which control the aileron actuators. A linkage termed a "follow-up" closes the servo-valve when the actuators and ailerons reach the position selected by pilot motion.

Separate small assemblies termed aileron centering mechanism are located in each wing outboard of the aileron operating mechanism, and are attached by push rod to the operating mechanism cable quadrant. The aileron centering mechanism contains a pair of springs with a combined strength great enough to return the cable quadrants, servovalve operating linkage, and aileron surface to approximately neutral in the event of control cable failure. An identical assembly is used for both the left and right ailerons.

The aileron travel limiter is designed to restrict the aileron surface travel to 18.5 degrees up and 14 degrees down at all times when the landing gear control lever is in the retracted position. The travel limiter is operated by a solenoid and controlled by a switch in the landing gear control unit so that when the landing gear control is moved to the gear extend position the solenoid is energized and the travel limiter permits full aileron travel. An override spring is incorporated which permits the pilot to obtain up to full aileron travel (35 degrees up and 25 degrees down) with the gear retracted provided he first applies an additional override force of approximately 20 pounds at either control stick.

The rudder control system is shown schematically on page Maximum rudder travel is ±30 degrees. When the landing gear control lever is in the retracted position, a travel stop mechanism is engaged which limits rudder travel to ±6 degrees. The travel stop mechanism limits the rudder pedal input only. The rudder can be deflected an additional 2 degrees by the trim system and 2 degrees input from the stability augmenter.

The surface operating hydraulic actuators are attached to airplane structure at the piston rod end. The hydraulic valves are located on the cylinders, thus motion of the cylinders provides the system follow up. The actuators are preloaded against each other to remove backlash and minimize free play in the system. The artificial feel system for the rudder is created by springs.

The aileron-rudder interconnect system ties the aileron and rudder control systems together at flight impact pressures, q<sub>c</sub>, above 500 psf - approximately 370 knots IAS. The interconnect provides "uncoordinated" rudder; i.e., a rudder deflection opposite that usually required for a coordinated turn. At maximum gear up aileron total differential angle, \(\delta\) atotal = 32.5 degrees, an "uncoordinated" rudder deflection of 7.15 degrees is produced. Schematic drawings of the system are shown on page 121

An electrical circuit containing a pressure switch is incorporated to provide the automatic interconnect signal. The right aileron motion is transmitted by cable system to a solenoid controlled coupling device which utilizes the electrical control signal to interconnect or disconnect the aileron and rudder systems. In the event of electrical or solenoid failure the interconnect will be engaged. The aileron motion signal from the coupling device is fed into the rudder surface operating mechanism through a walking beam, so that no rudder pedal motion occurs when the rudder surface is moved by the aileron signal. Conversely, rudder pedal motion by the pilot will operate the rudder surface but will not feed back to operate the aileron.

The function of the stability augmenter is to augment the inherent damping characteristics of the airplane in the longitudinal and directional modes. The rudder trim system is also incorporated into the stability augmenter system. The stability augmenter is composed of a pitch damper and a yaw damper. Short period oscillations and transients in pitch and yaw are sensed by rate gyros, one for each axis. The signals from the gyros are shaped and equalized by electronic circuitry into damping signals. The damping signals are in turn used to position servo actuators which superimpose augmenter produced surface deflections onto the pilot controlled deflections. None of the augmenter inputs can be felt on the stick or rudder pedals.

The augmenter system is powered by the left hand utility hydraulic system and the augmenter will be inoperative in the event of failure either of this system or the airplane electrical system. Under normal conditions the augmenter will be in operation throughout the flight. Either the pitch damper or the yaw damper can be turned on or off individually in flight from the front cockpit. A pressure switch turns off the stability augmenter if the hydraulic pressure drops below 1500 psi.

The stability augmenter system incorporates airspeed compensation to produce gain changes with changes in calibrated airspeed. The airspeed compensation is achieved by means of the "qc compensator" which consists of a bellows connected to a pitot tube. The impact pressure in the bellows actuates two potentiometers, one in the yaw damper circuit and one in the pitch damper circuit. The potentiometers are linear and the circuit includes resistors to shape the signal and to produce gain decreases in both systems with increasing impact pressure up to approximately 1200 psf. The gains in both systems, as regulated by the potentiometers, are essentially constant for impact pressures above 1200 psf.

Both the pitch and yaw damper systems incorporate "wash-out" circuits which attenuate low frequency signals. In addition, low pass filter circuits act to attenuate frequencies above 10 cps. The "wash-out" circuits prevent the augmenter from opposing the pilot in steady-state maneuvers, while the low pass filters reduce the undesirable effects of high frequency noise on the system. The pitch damper authority limits are stabilator movement from + 1/2 degrees (trailing edge up) to -1 degree. Failsafe circuits are incorporated in both pitch damper and yaw damper circuits which will disengage the malfunctioning channel without causing a hardover surface deflection when there is a loss of actuator feedback signal, electrical power, or hydraulic power.

The yaw damper system authority is  $\pm 4$  degrees, less the rudder trim input. The trim position of the rudder is controlled from the forward cockpit by the rudder trim knob on the left console. The rudder trim acts through the yaw damper circuit and the trim limits are  $\pm 2$  degrees.

#### WEIGHT AND BALANCE

The aircraft were weighed and the fuel tanks were calibrated. The basic weight including test instrumentation for both aircraft is listed below:

Aircraft	Gross Weight-lb	°/oMAC	Fuel gal
58-1192, basic weight	8,090	18.7	Empty tanks
58-1192, full weight	11, 960	20.7	595
58-1195, basic weight	8, 120	24.0	Empty tanks
58-1195, full weight	12,010	20.0	582

#### TEST INSTRUMENTATION

The test instrumentation was installed and maintained by the contractor. The following test instrumentation was installed in the test vehicle:

#### Photo Panel:

Boom altimeter
Boom airspeed indicator
Free air temperature indicator
Fuel counter (left and right)
Engine rpm gage (left and right)
Exhaust gas temperature gage (left and right)
Correlation counter
Clock

## Oscillograph:

Angle of pitch Angle of attack Angle of sideslip Bank angle Normal acceleration Longitudinal acceleration Lateral acceleration Stabilator position Rudder position Aileron position (left and right) Lateral stick force Longitudinal stick force Longitudinal stick position Rate of yaw Rate of pitch Rate of roll Pitch acceleration Yaw acceleration Flap position Speed brake position Nose gear lift-off indicator Main gear lift-off indicator

# ASTIA DOCUMENT NO. AD-

Air force flight Test Centor flight Test Engineering Division Edwards AfB, California

T-18A Caregory II Stability and Control Tests. By W. A. Lusby, Jr., Captain, USAF and N. J. Hanks, Captain, USAF. August 1961. Pages. (AFFTC-TR-61-15).

The T-38 aircraft is an excellent trainer for pilot transition into high performance jet aircraft, including present Century Series fighter aircraft. Its simplicity is conducive to transition; its performance and handling characteristics allow Century Series simulation and development of correct pilot techniques. Visibility from the frant seat and the rear seat is excellent during all phases of flight. The rear seat (instructor's position) affords complete control over most of the normal and

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Air Force Flight Test Center Flight Test Engineering Division Edwards AFB, California T-38A Category II Stability and Control Tests. By W. A. Lusby, Jr., Captoin, USAF and N. J. Honks, Captoin, USAF. August 1961. Pages. (AFFTC-TR-61-15).

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